Bengaluru Tuesday, August 26, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 237 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

I have respect for Mother Chamundi: Banu Mushtaq

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Sports

BCCI hunts for new sponsor after Dream11 walks out P.13

Nation

Kejriwal takes swipe at Shah over sacking bill P.8

World

5 journalists among 20 killed in Gaza P.10

State

GO issued, freeze on recruitments lifted P.5

'Not free speech': SC on online shows of influencers

Commercial speeches don't come under fundamental right, says court

'India's Got Latent' host Samay Raina leaves after appearing before the Supreme Court, in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

Key observations

- Degree of repentance should be higher than degree of offence
- Influencers should be more cautious while creating humour related to different communities
- There is no fundamental rights when there is overlap of commercial and prohibited speeches
- Proposed guidelines should sensitise people and fix responsibility for faults
- Guidelines should be broad-based

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday said social media influencers indulging in commercial speech cannot claim protection under the fundamental right to freedom of speech and they should bear in mind sensibilities of the community at large.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi sought to distinguish between freedom of speech and commercial speech and asked the comedians who lampooned differently abled people to put out an apology on their channels and inform the court about the penalty they were ready to pay for their acts.

"Humour is a part of life and we can take jokes on us. But when you start laughing at others, there is a breach of sensitivity. It is not only about disability. We are a country of communities... so when humour on a community is generated, it becomes a problem. And this is what persons who are influencers and so-called influencers of today should bear in mind," the bench said.

The court was hearing a petition by Cure SMA Foundation of India, which supports patients and families affected by spinal muscular atrophy.

The NGO had flagged jokes made by comedians Samay Raina, Vipun Goyal, Balraj Paramjeet Singh Ghai, Sonali Thakkar and Nishant Jagdish Tanwar. The NGO's petition is clubbed with the cases linked to the show 'India's Got Latent', hosted by Raina.

▸ SC, Page 5

Relief to psephologist Sanjay Kumar, Page 8

Modi's degree: RTI order set aside

The Delhi HC has set aside an RTI order to disclose details of PM Modi's degree, saying that only because he was holding a public office, all his "personal information" can't be disclosed. Page 10

Ambani's Vantara: SC sets up SIT

The SC on Monday ordered setting up of an SIT for an independent appraisal of allegations against Anant Ambani's Vantara animal rescue and rehabilitation centre in Gujarat. Page 10

Ahead of US tariffs, Modi says will bear pressure

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: Ahead of the 50% US tariffs that are set to kick in, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday reiterated that the government won't compromise with the interest of "small entrepreneurs, cattle rearers and farmers" and called out "economic selfishness".

"No matter how much pressure comes, we will keep increasing our strength to find a way out of it," said Modi while addressing a public gathering in Ahmedabad city.

"We all are witnessing the politics of economic selfishness in the world. We all are aware how everyone is busy protesting their own self interest," Modi said while assuring "shopkeepers, farmers, cattle rearers, and small entrepreneurs that their "interest will be top priority".

"I am speaking from the land of Mahatma Gandhi and I am assuring everyone again that for Modi, your welfare is the top priority. My government has always stood by small businesses and farmers," he added.

Will take policy measures: RBI

The RBI will take policy measures to support sectors like gems and jewellery, textiles, apparel, shrimps and MSMEs, which are likely to be impacted due to the imposition of high US tariffs, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Monday. Page 12

Rs 12 cr spent, but potholes rise by 63%

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's pothole problem is getting worse. And there is new data to back it up.

According to BBMP data presented by the government in the Legislative Council, the civic body filled up 1.07 lakh square metres of potholes in 2023-24. But in 2024-25, the area went up to 1.78 lakh square metres, a 63% increase compared to last year, indicating that the number of potholes were increasing year-on-year.

To fill these increasing potholes, the civic body spent Rs 12.25 crore in 2024-25, up from Rs 7 crore in 2023-24.

However, commuters trashed the works carried out, saying many potholes open up within weeks of being filled up.

"We did see BBMP taking up pothole filling works. However, just a few weeks later, we noticed that the same roads have again developed potholes. If the road is back in the same shape, this is a waste of taxpayer's money," said Murthy B, a resident of Mahadevapura zone.

2024-25:
Money spent: **Rs 12.25 crore**
Area of potholes covered: **1.78 lakh sq mt**

2023-24:
Money spent: **Rs 7 crore**
Area of potholes covered: **1.07 lakh sq mt**

▸ Potholes, Page 5

BBMP era ends in a week; GBA beckons

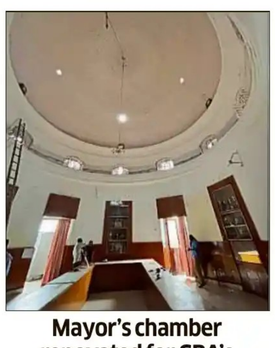
NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Come September 2, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will cease to exist.

As the operationalisation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and the five newly carved municipal corporations is just a week away, senior IAS officers held a series of meetings on Monday to reassign responsibilities among the workforce and ensure continuity in administration.

The government is expected to appoint commissioners for the new corporations and special commissioners for the GBA by Saturday. This is also because the 30-day window for submitting objections to the five corporations and the 15-day window to scrutinise the inputs will end on September 1.

Until the new offices are built, the zonal offices will serve as the headquarters of the five different corporations.



Mayor's chamber renovated for GBA's new chairman.
DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

TODAY'S TROUBLE — TOMORROW'S HOPE

▸ BBMP, Page 5

Mysuru horror: Man held for killing woman by blasting gelatin in mouth

SALIGRAMA (MYSURU DIST), DHNS: In a shocking incident, a man allegedly killed a woman by blasting a gelatin strip in her mouth at a lodge in Saligrama taluk of Mysuru district, police said on Monday.

The incident happened on Saturday night.

The victim has been identified as Rakshitha (20), a resident of Gerasanahalli, Hunsur taluk. The accused, Siddaraju, hailing from Periyapatna taluk, is said to be her relative.

Police said Rakshitha was married to a Kerala-based man and was having an affair with Siddaraju, who took her to a temple at Kappadi on Saturday. The duo then checked into a lodge.

As per the complaint by the lodge manager, Rakshitha was found in a pool of blood.

Siddaraju initially tried to mislead the police by claiming that Rakshitha had died of a mobile phone blast, according to Assistant Superintendent of Police C Mallik.

The police haven't revealed any motive behind the murder.

Circle Police Inspector Shashikumar said the victim's mouth was heavily damaged and electric wires were found in the room. "Prima facie, it looks like Siddaraju murdered her," he said.

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Cong finalises 4 names for MLC nominations

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dalit leader FH Jakkappanavar, senior journalist K Shivakumar, Congress' communications chief Ramesh Babu and Karnataka NRI Forum deputy chairperson Arathi Krishna have been shortlisted to become MLCs nominated by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, sources said.

Four MLCs positions that were held by CP Yogeshwar, UB Venkatesh, Prakash Rathod and KA Thippeswamy are vacant.

These four nominations—done through the Governor—are expected to give the Congress a simple majority in the Legislative Council so that it can pass Bills without hassles. The Congress has picked two SCs, one OBC and one Vokkaliga.

Details on Page 4

BJP plans 'Hindu Samavesha' in Dharmasthala amid row

BENGALURU, DHNS

Why Samavesha?

- To warn and expose anti-Sanatan Hindu Dharma forces
- To express solidarity with the Dharmasthala temple

State BJP president B Y Vijayendra on Monday said that a Virat Hindu Samavesha will be held on September 1 in Dharmasthala and hoped for a massive participation of devotees.

The BJP's announcement comes after an alleged 'mass burial' case rocked the temple town, raising social and political tensions. The case took a sensational twist after the complainant-witness was arrested on charges of perjury.

Referring to the 1983 Samavesh at Ujire, Vijayendra recalled how the slogan 'Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitaha' resonated then and said that history would repeat itself after 42 years.

Describing the upcoming event as non-political, Vijayendra emphasised two objectives: to warn and expose anti-Sanatan Hindu Dharma forces and to express solidarity with the Dharmasthala temple, which he claimed is under unwarranted scrutiny.

He criticised the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government, accusing it of pampering anti-Hindu forces and warning against letting a handful of anti-Sanatan elements destabilise the state.

Stressing the public's emotional connection to Dharmasthala, he said growing anger and resentment would be channelled constructively through the event.

Vijayendra asked devotees to start the day by praying at their nearby temples, take part in local processions, and then travel to Dharmasthala to attend the main event at 2 pm. He also demanded that the state government hand over controversies surrounding Dharmasthala to the NIA to restore public trust.

Santa Samavesha

At the Santa Samavesha in Bengaluru, activist Chakravarthy Sulibele called for a roadmap for reviving dharma and cultural unity and proposed three resolutions, including keeping donation boxes (hundis) in all Ganesha pandals during the Ganesha festival, where people can offer 'tappu kanike'—a small donation made as a sign of repentance.

DEADLY DRIVE

80 people dead in BMTC bus accidents since 2024

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

At least 80 people have lost their lives in road accidents involving BMTC buses since 2024, according to Bengaluru Traffic Police data.

This year has been particularly deadly, with 38 fatalities reported until August 24, including five this month alone.

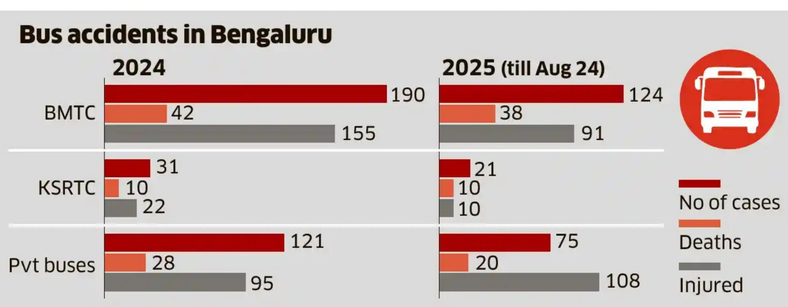
Four of the five fatalities reported this August involved two-wheeler passengers; two victims were children. On Sunday, an 11-year-old boy travelling with his uncle on a two-wheeler was killed when a BMTC bus struck them near KR Market.

In 2024, BMTC bus-related accidents resulted in 42 deaths and 155 injuries. So far this year, 124 accidents have occurred, killing 38 people and injuring 91.

KSRTC buses in Bengaluru were involved in accidents that killed 20 people and injured 32. Private buses accounted for 48 deaths and 203 injuries, the data since 2024 shows.

▸ BMTC buses, Page 5

Bus accidents in Bengaluru



> There's a false perception that BMTC drivers are rash. If you look into accidents involving BMTC, 60% of the time drivers are not at fault. Our drivers are well-trained and professional, and appointed purely based on merit.
>
> **Ramalinga Reddy,** Transport Minister

Rapido rolls out free platform for bike taxis; Uber, Ola exit service

Until Aug 25, Rapido charged riders platform fee & GST

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

As the bike taxi row intensifies, Rapido has rolled out a new non-profit feature called 'Bike Direct' to support riders, even as Uber and Ola discontinued their bike taxi services.

Rapido said the feature would be "completely free of cost in Karnataka, with no incentives or charges for bike taxi captains".

The move comes four days after the Karnataka High Court said that it had not passed any order allowing bike taxi aggregators to operate in the state.

It had clarified that while the government could act against aggregators, it must not harass individual riders.

"While the High Court permitted captains to operate independently, no one was able to secure bookings due to the absence of a dedicated infrastructure or platform.

"Rapido has stepped in purely as a livelihood support measure. Bike Direct is not a commercial service and does not mark Rapido's return to bike taxi operations," a company spokesperson said.

Until August 25, Rapido charged riders a platform fee and GST. "On Monday, we were told that we no longer need to pay any fee for using Rapido. This is a relief after two months of struggling without bike taxis," said Balaji, a 58-year-old rider.

'No intimation yet'

Transport Commissioner Yogeesh AM said the department had not received any intimation about Rapido's new feature.

"No one has reached out to me regarding this. We are currently collecting data to raise all bike taxi violations that have happened in the last week to present in court. Whatever the aggregator platforms have to say, it must be directed towards the High Court and not the transport department," he said.

Uber and Ola did not respond to calls from *DH*.

THRIVING TRADITIONS

Colourful idols of Gowri and Ganesha attract festival shoppers at RV Road and Gandhi Bazaar on Monday. Ganesh Chaturthi will be celebrated on Wednesday.
DH PHOTOS/RANJU P & PRASHANTH HG

Ejipura flyover crack not major structural defect, says IISc report

BENGALURU, DHNS: A crack that was detected in the Ejipura flyover during preparatory work is not a major structural defect, an interim report by an Indian Institute of Science (IISc) professor has stated.

The report noted that the flyover's core structural components remain intact, describing the damage as a localised "punching failure" that can be fixed through standard re-concreting.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had requested Prof JM Chandra Kishen of IISc's Civil Engineering Department to study the issue after a concrete segment was damaged during girder launching due to a rear trolley wheel failure.

The crack on a concrete segment of the flyover. FILE

Following the accident, the BBMP engineers were uncertain whether patchwork or full replacement of the girder was needed.

According to the IISc findings, the reinforcing steel, post-tensioning cables and anchor blocks of the girder are unaffected.

The professor has removing the damaged concrete, strengthening reinforcements, and recasting with M50 non-shrink compound concrete.

"The incident, though not critical, clears confusion. We will re-start the work immediately," said Raghavendra Prasad, chief engineer of BBMP's road infrastructure division. The 2.5-km flyover, along the Inner Ring Road linking Hosur Road and Ejipura, is expected to be completed by June next year.

BSWML advances mustering of auto tippers to 6.30 am

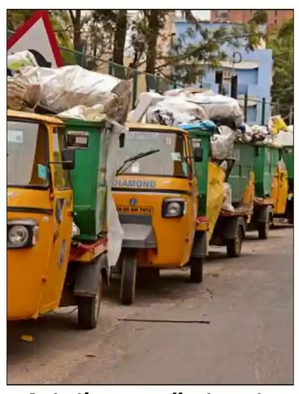
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has advanced the mustering of auto tippers — which collect waste from houses and commercial establishments — to ensure daily clearance of garbage blackspots.

As per the August 25 order, vehicles must complete attendance between 5.30 am and 6.30 am.

After mustering, auto tippers are required to spend an hour clearing blackspots and leaf waste collected by pourakarmikas.

"We have stopped mustering vehicles that come after 6.30 am. The changes ensure timely door-to-door waste collection and blackspot clearance," said Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer of BSWML.



Auto tippers collect waste from houses and commercial establishments. DH FILE PHOTO

77 skywalks cleaned

The BSWML on Monday carried out a cleanliness drive across 77 skywalks in the city to improve public convenience and pedestrian safety.

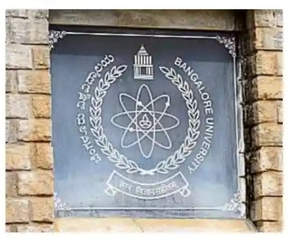
The drive covered skywalks near Baptist Hospital in Hebbal, Hosur Road, Old Madras Road, Manipal Hospitals, Magadi Road, Nagarabhavi Main Road, Mysuru Road, Tin Factory, Bellandur, and Singasandra.

"The cleaning included stairways, walking decks, lifts, posters stuck on structures, and removal of waste and dust from surrounding areas," BSWML said in a statement.

The agency urged citizens to cooperate by keeping skywalks clean. "Do not litter, spit, stick posters, or dump plastic covers and bottles. Cleanliness of skywalks is a collective responsibility, and public cooperation is essential," the statement added.

BU issues revised PhD regulations; now 30% weightage for interview

Changes made on the basis of UGC guidelines



BENGALURU, DHNS

From this year, PhD aspirants at Bangalore University (BU) must score 30% marks in the interview, as per the revised admission regulations.

The new rules allocate 30% weightage to the interview and 70% to post graduate examination scores and entrance test marks.

The 'Regulations Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Bangalore University 2024', approved by Governor and Chancellor Thawaachand Gehlot, make the interview mandatory.

"Earlier, seat allotment was based on a 50:50 ratio between PG scores and the entrance test. Now, following University Grants Commission guidelines, we have incorporated the interview component," said CS Karigar, Registrar (Evaluation), Bangalore University.

Candidates applying under the non-entrance test category can seek admission anytime during the year, subject to vacancy. "Seat allotment under this category will not exceed 50%. They need not wait for the PhD admission notification," clarified Karigar. Earlier, even such candidates could apply only after a notification.

New regulations

Professors with less than three years of service left before retirement will not be allotted students under the new regulations.

Officials said this move avoids disruptions, as PhD programmes typically take five to six years. This may reduce the number of seats available this year.

For SC and ST candidates, the eligibility criteria are 50% aggregate in PG examinations, compared to 55% for others. The university will convert PG and entrance test scores to 70% of the total weightage.

The PhD admission notification for the 2025-26 academic year will be issued in September.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Kushal Kalavrunda: Mythological Drama Festival: 'Krishna Sandhana'; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 11 am.

Committee for Implementation of Internal Reservation of Scheduled Castes for Social Justice: Consultation meeting on allocating 1 percent separate internal reservation to nomadic communities; Legislature Hall-5; 4 pm.

Community: Jatha towards Humanity; Drama festival; Singing of Sadbhavana Geetha; Pichalli Srinivas and team; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 5 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	54%
Sunset (Aug 26)	6:35 pm
Sunrise (Aug 27)	6:08 am
Moonrise	7:40 am
Moonset	8:00 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Woman loses watch during check at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman's wristwatch was allegedly stolen during a security check at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru on August 15.

The FIR stated that Neha Kushwah, who was travelling to Gwalior, placed her Titan wristwatch, worth around Rs 10,000, in a tray at Terminal 2 around 8.30 am.

After passing security, Neha, a private firm employee, found it missing and alerted the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) before continuing her journey.

Days later, the CISF informed her that a passenger, identified as Usha Gangadhar, was suspected of being involved in the theft.

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Two arrested for daylight home robbery

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Banaswadi police arrested two people and recovered gold ornaments worth over Rs 1.75 lakh, days after a daylight robbery at a house in RS Palya.

On the evening of July 29, the duo allegedly entered the complainant's house at Muniswamappa Layout, attacked the victim with a knife and fled with 48 grams of gold ornaments.

A case was registered under BNS Section 329 (criminal trespass and house trespass) at the Banaswadi police station.

Based on a tip-off, the police arrested the suspects on the night of July 31.

Alvin Joshva, 18, an autorickshaw driver, was caught near the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, while LS Latha, 27, a telecaller, was picked up from a house on Muniswamappa Road.

The police recovered the stolen gold chain and other ornaments, some of which had been mortgaged. On August 2, the suspects were produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody.

Investigators said both were first-time offenders with no prior record.

UP man killed after drunken quarrel

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 25-year-old man from Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh, was allegedly killed by two friends following a drunken argument at an industrial plant on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Friday.

The incident took place at SV Concrete in the Industrial Area, Kengeri, Bengaluru South taluk.

The police have detained Akash and Ravi, who are accused of killing Amit. Ravi worked at the plant.

The police said that Rohith HN, the plant in-charge, was first alerted around 6 pm, by store in-charge Vijay, that the trio had entered the premises drunk. Rohith called Ravi and asked him to send his friends out.

An hour later, Rohith was told one of them was seriously injured. Rohith rushed to the plant and found Amit dead, lying in a pool of blood on a table with a thigh injury.

A case under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been registered.

"We have detained the suspects. The motive is being probed. The body has been sent for post-mortem, and background checks on the suspects and the victim are underway," a police officer said.

Ganesha festival: Meat ban tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has ordered a ban on the sale of meat on Wednesday on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi.

The order was issued by the BBMP's animal husbandry department. Both slaughterhouses and meat shops should remain closed across the BBMP limits.

Corrigendum

BENGALURU, DHNS: The news report, 'Teen cyclist killed in lorry accident near Yelahanka' — carried in these columns on August 25 — was based on the statement of a traffic police officer given to *DH*.

However, one of the doctors treating the 18-year-old clarified on Monday that the boy was still under treatment and that his condition was critical.

Vijay BS had fallen off his bicycle after a tipper lorry — driven at high speed in a rash and negligent manner — struck him near Kurlappa Complex on Kogilu Main Road around 12.30 pm on Sunday. He came under the front wheels of the lorry, which crushed his left hand, waist and both legs, according to the police.

He was rushed to the nearby Sparsh Hospital in Yelahanka.

One of the doctors treating him said: "He is in a very critical condition. We have performed two surgeries and two more are pending. He is not responding well to the treatment."

The Yelahanka traffic police arrested the lorry driver, identified as Modeen Miya bin Jaleel Miya, for rash and negligent driving and rashness or negligence that endangers human life or the personal safety of others. They have impounded the vehicle (KA 51/AH 9423).

सत्यमेव जयते
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA)
Government of India
3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003
Ph.: 011-24695044

PUBLIC NOTICE

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION MEETING FOR FORMULATION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OF MAJOR AIRPORTS RELATING TO QUALITY, CONTINUITY AND RELIABILITY OF SERVICE AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

Ministry of Civil Aviation in accordance with the provision of Section 51(2)(f) of the AERA Act, 2008, is in the process of formulating Rules for Performance Standards of Major Airports Relating to Quality, Continuity and Reliability of Service and Associated Activities. In this regard, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has issued a Consultation Paper No. 03/2025-26 on 18.08.2025, containing the proposed Performance Standards including monitoring mechanism thereof (which is available on AERA website at URL **https://aera.gov.in).**

The various proposals contained in the Consultation Paper, are put forth for Stakeholders' Consultation. A Stakeholders Consultation Meeting in hybrid mode (Physical/ Online) in this regard is scheduled on **10th September, 2025 at 01:30 PM at:**

Indian Aviation Academy,
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.

All stakeholders like Airport Operators, Airlines, Passengers/Passengers' Associations, General Public, Industry Associations/Bodies, Independent Service providers for Cargo, Ground Handing Fuel Farm etc., are requested to join the said meeting and give their valuable suggestions/ comments/views on the aforesaid Consultation Paper for Formulation of Performance Standards of Major Airports Relating to Quality, Continuity and Reliability of Service and Associated Activities.

For participants wishing to join online, the link will be available on AERA website **(https://aera.gov.in)** before the Stakeholders meeting under Tab "News and Announcements"

Sd/-
Secretary, AERA

CBC - 03112/12/0007/2526

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The vehicle is available for inspection from **26.08.2025 to 09.09.2025** between **10.00 AM to 04:00 PM** at Canara Sadan, BDA Gnanabharati residential layout, Mysore Road, Valagerahalli phase-6, Kengeri satellite town, Bengaluru-560060. Interested buyers are requested to quote their Offer for the vehicle in the **prescribed tender form only.** The vehicles will be sold on **"As is where is condition".**
The necessary application forms may be downloaded from the Bank's Website **https://canarabank.com/tenders.** Last date for submission of Offer document is **09.09.2025 up to 3.00 P.M.** Tenders will be opened on **09.09.2025 at 04:00 PM** at above address.
Further communications, corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be hosted in Bank's website only.
Place : Bengaluru Sd/-
Date : 26/08/2025 Assistant General Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum to the **e-Tender No. KPA-ERS-OT-01-25-26, Dated : 08.08.2025** published earlier by the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/ Loco, Eastern Railway Workshop, Kanchrapara, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin-743145. The tender value should be read as **Rs. 5,71,73,313.00 only inclusive of GST & all others charges** instead of Rs. 7,71,73,313.00 only inclusive of GST & all others charges. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. For more details, please visit the IREPS website: **www.ireps.gov.in**
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कार्यालय झुमरीतिलैया नगर परिषद

अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा सूचना सं0– J.M.C/04/2025-26 Date – 25-08-2025

क्रं0 सं0	मद् का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (in Rupees)	अग्रधन की राशि (in Rupees)	निविदा शुल्क (in Rupees)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	15वें वित्त	CONSTRUCTION OF DEVELOPMENT OF VENDING ZONES/SHOPS WITH BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC AMENITIES FOR STREET VENDOR NEAR GANDHI SCHOOL.	1,71,14,457	3,42,300	10,000	12 Month

1. Only E-Tender will be accepted
2. नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग अन्तर्गत समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदक निविदा में भाग ले सकते है।
3. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 01.09.2025 (पूर्वाहन 10.00 बजे से)।
4. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 09.09.2025 अपराहन 5.00 बजे।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि : 11.09.2025 अपराहन 3.00 बजे।
6. हेल्पलाईन नम्बर : 7903772765, 9572100949, 8505948858
7. E-Procurement में Tender Fee एवं EMD की राशि ऑनलाईन सूचना प्रोद्यागिकी एवं ई–गवर्नेंस विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची का आदेश ज्ञापांक – 120, दिनांक– 03.10.2023 एवं नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची का पत्रांक 05/विविध (e-tender)–12/2023/न0वि0–4847 (अनु0), दिनांक– 11.10.2023 के तहत ली जायगी।
8. निविदा शूल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
विशेष जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाईट http://jharkhandtenders.go.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

प्रशासक
PR 360399 Urban Development(25-26)#D झुमरी तिलैया, नगर परिषद

IIT-Dharwad student dies of heart attack

DHARWAD, DHNS: A 22-year-old MTech student of the Mechanical Engineering Department at IIT-Dharwad died of a heart attack.

The deceased has been identified as Asthitva Gupta, a native of Bihar.

According to IIT sources, Asthitva suddenly collapsed while participating in NCC selection trials. He was immediately rushed to the campus clinic, where staff managed to stabilise him. He was then shifted to a private hospital for further treatment. However, while undergoing treatment in the ICU, he suffered a second attack and could not be revived.

Deadline can't be set for D'sthala SIT probe, says home minister

MYSURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara has said that it is not possible to set a deadline for the investigation into alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala.

"It's not possible to set a deadline for the investigation. How can we dictate them (Special Investigation Team) to finish the investigation within particular time frame? I have only asked SIT to complete the investigation as soon as possible," Parameshwara said. He was speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Monday.

The Home minister said that he cannot interfere in the SIT investigation and there was no need to handover the probe to the National Investigation Agency. He added that the SIT had been doing its job properly.

To a question, Parameshwara refused to comment on Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar reciting Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) anthem during Assembly session.

Siddaramaiah orders action in fake caste certificate cases

CM concerned over poor conviction rate in atrocity cases

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday directed officials to initiate immediate action in 170 cases of fake caste certificates. Chairing the SC/ST vigilance committee meeting, the CM explained that government facilities should be withdrawn in all cases where people have obtained them by providing fake caste certificates.

"There should be a consensus in this regard amongst different departments. A comprehensive report should be submitted."

The chief minister's statement comes just weeks after the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission's report on internal reservation had recommended removing 1.77 lakh people registered as Beda Jangamas after observing an "artificial" growth in their population.

The population of Beda Jangamas, which was 1,17,426 during the 2011 census, rose to 3,22,049 in 2025. Since estimates indicated the current projections to be around 1.44 lakh, the remaining 1.77 lakh people were recommended to be removed.

Year	Total cases	Chargesheeted cases
2023	2,553	2,008
2024	2,534	2,027
2025	1,548	877
Total	6,635	4,912

Only 63% cases chargesheeted

The chief minister also expressed disappointment that charge sheets had been filed within 60 days in only 63% of the overall SC/ST atrocity cases.

As per data from the Social Welfare Department, charge sheets have been submitted in 4,912 (74%) of 6,635 cases. However, in only 4,149 (63%) cases, the charge sheets were filed within the stipulated 60-day period.

"It has been directed to submit charge sheets within 60 days in atrocity cases against SC/ST persons. However, in only 84% (4,149/4,912) cases, the charge sheets have been filed within 60 days. Steps should be taken to ensure that charge sheets are compulsorily filed within the 60 days in all 100% cases," the chief minister said.

After 33 police stations were operationalised under the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE), the directorate is investigating SC/ST atrocity cases lodged in other stations. Of the 413 such cases, the DCRE has taken over investigation in 400 cases. As many as 35 of these have been charge-sheeted, while investigation is still pending in 365 cases.

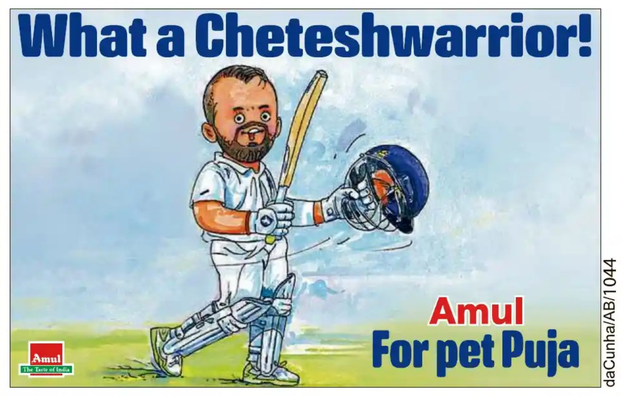
Noting that 11 special courts had been set up to deal with the atrocity cases, Siddaramaiah said that a proper inquiry should be conducted to ensure speedy dispensation of justice.

According to SWD data, 2,593 cases are pending before these 11 special courts.

Siddaramaiah expressed disappointment that the conviction rate was merely 10% in atrocity cases. However, the conviction rate increased from 6% in 2024.

"If police are found to be hand-in-glove with the accused, strict measures will be initiated," Siddaramaiah added.

The chief minister also assured that the government would consider increasing the medical compensation provided in atrocity cases that result in physical handicaps.



Ganesha idol-makers from Bengal seek police protection in D'gere

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

For the past 15 years, idol makers from West Bengal have promptly trooped into state either in April or May to make idols for the Ganesha Chaturthi festivities. This fruitful inter-state association, pleasant for the most part, was marred by the conduct of a few miscreants in Davanagere last year, who, not only abused and mistreated the West Bengal artisans but also damaged some of the idols they had made. Consequently, the idol makers have appealed to the police to protect them from such miscreants this year.

Tanmay Pal, one of the more prominent idol makers from West Bengal working in Davanagere, recalled how some customers were reluctant to pay the money agreed upon earlier at the time of delivery. "They kicked up a row over small cracks, and even destroyed some of them, plunging the idol makers in loss. Some of these miscreants even abused the idol makers. So, we need security at least for the duration of the festival," Pal told *DH*.

The linguistic divide too was proving an obstacle, given that the idol makers spoke no Kannada while customers don't speak Hindi, said Pal. However, Pal was quick to point out that the idol makers boasted many a loyal customer in Davanagere, who had been purchasing idols from the West Bengal artisans for the past 15 years.

"We have never had any issue with payment with any of them till now. We come here to earn our livelihood since there is a huge demand for idols of Lord Ganesha, but some miscreants created trouble for us," rued Pal, adding that the artisans returned home after Ganesha Chaturthi in time for the Durga Puja festivities in West Bengal.

Refusal on the part of some customers to pay the pending amount for idols they had ordered prompted Pal to take loans to settle the wages of his labourers. "I have a team of 15 workers, all of whom are highly skilled. We need to pay each of them Rs 2,000 per day. Although we may earn around Rs 4-5 lakh in six months here, a large chunk of the profit goes towards paying our workers' wages," said Pal.

Will provide security: SP

Pal and his team of artisans have made idols of Ganesha in 100 different designs, with the price of idols ranging between Rs 5,000 and Rs 50,000.

Although the idol makers have always pitched their tents at Pisale on PB Road in Davanagere, they had to shift base to the outskirts of the town near Bathi Lake this year.

Davanagere Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth confirmed to *DH* that they would provide security to the idol makers if they sought help. "They need have no fear in this regard," she said.

Don't know whom DKS was trying to impress by singing RSS prayer: Hariprasad

'It's wrong to recite prayer of an organisation that killed Mahatma Gandhi'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad on Monday wondered if Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar was trying to "impress someone" by singing the RSS' prayer inside the Assembly, an episode that has divided the ruling party.

On August 21, Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress president, raised eyebrows when he broke into the RSS' prayer *Namaste Sada Vatsale...* in the Assembly during a debate on the June 4 Chinnaswamy stadium stampede. He sang two lines of the prayer upon a slight provocation by Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka.

"We have no objection to Shivakumar reciting the prayer as the deputy CM because a government belongs to all, including the RSS. But he's not supposed to say it as the Congress president. If he said it as Congress president, he'll have to apologise," Hariprasad said. "It's wrong to recite the prayer of an organisation that killed Mahatma Gandhi."

B K HARIPRASAD
Senior Congress leader

"We have no objection to Shivakumar reciting the prayer as the deputy CM because a government belongs to all, including the RSS. But he's not supposed to say it as the Congress president. If he said it as Congress president, he'll have to apologise.

Hariprasad said he was studying law when Shivakumar was a pre-university student. "Shivakumar has many faces. He says he's an agriculturist, a quarry owner, an educationist, a businessman...I don't know to whom he wanted to send a message. I don't know who he was trying to impress by reciting the RSS prayer," Hariprasad said.

After Shivakumar's act in the Assembly, ministers Dr H C Mahadevappa and Priyank Kharge took to social media to attack the RSS - the BJP's ideological parent - as if to criticise the deputy chief minister. Senior Congress lawmaker K N Rajanna, who was sacked, has asked why Shivakumar gets away with no action.

Shivakumar has worn his Hindu identity on his sleeve all while being a relentless Congress loyalist. In fact, one minister quipped that if Shivakumar became the CM, then the BJP would not have much scope to rake up 'emotional' issues.

The Assembly incident sparked off speculation that Shivakumar, who is waiting for his turn to become the chief minister, would join hands with the BJP if push came to shove.

Law & Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil played down Shivakumar's RSS prayer. "He said it in a flow. There's no need to read too much into it. We must understand the context. Unnecessary political analysis is wrong," he said.

Even Hariprasad did not entertain the idea that Shivakumar would go rogue. "I don't think he'll undertake such an adventure," he said.

RGUHS circular asks colleges to play Naada Geethe, National Anthem at all events

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a circular issued to each of its affiliate colleges, the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) has directed the institutions to compulsorily sing or play the 'Naada Geethe' at the commencement of any event, and ensure it concludes with the rendition or playing of the National Anthem.

Playing of the Naada Geethe and National Anthem during public events is part of the protocol prescribed by the state government. RGUHS officials admitted that some of the colleges had not been following the protocol, prompting them to issue the circular. The varsity also aims to instil values of patriotism among both students and staff by having the songs played at public events.

RGUHS has issued a circular mandating that each event commence with the playing of the Naada Geethe and conclude with the rendition of the National Anthem.

RGUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr B C Bhagawan, while conceding that the varsity boasted a diverse student body representing various states across the country, said that it was important for them to become acquainted with the culture of Karnataka. Furthermore, the VC has instructed affiliate colleges to put a stop to the tradition of honouring either him or other varsity officials with bouquets, shawls, garlands and other paraphernalia, and instead present them with medical books. "We need to have medical books in the libraries of several medical colleges. Books gifted to officials can, in turn, be donated to the government medical colleges. My advise to other guests would be to donate books received as gifts to medical college libraries," Dr Bhagawan said.

"The Vice-Chancellor will not accept traditional gifts, instead he may be presented with a set of textbooks. These books will be gifted to deserving students from economically weaker sections studying in government colleges," read the circular.

New inspection panel formed for organ transplants

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health and Family Welfare Department has formed a new inspection committee for registration and renewal of hospitals offering organ transplantation and organ retrieval.

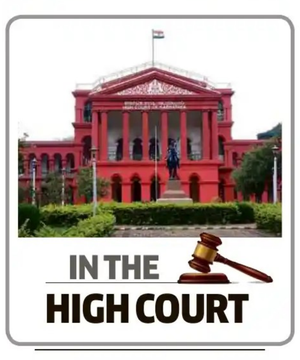
The committee comprises specialists for each transplantable organ, with members from Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute, Victoria Hospital, Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant, and Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiac Sciences. Programme officer of State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation is part of panel. Its responsibilities include verifying hospital infrastructure, licences and assessing transplant team's qualifications and experience.

GOWRI'S HOMECOMING

Women purchase Gowri idol on the eve of Gowri festival at Malleshwaram in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

HC orders Siddhartha varsity to compensate student for denial of MBBS admission

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS



Directs SSAHE to pay Rs 15L to petitioner-student whithin two months

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education (SSAHE), Tumakuru, a Deemed-to-be-University of which Home Minister G Parameshwara is the chancellor, to pay Rs 15 lakh compensation to a medical student for denying admission to the MBBS course during academic year 2017-18.

A division bench comprising Justices Anu Sivaraman and K Manmadha Rao ordered that the compensation shall be paid within two months.

The petitioner Sanjana V Tumakuru had secured All India Rank of 1,95,911 in NEET-2017 and participated in the counselling conducted by the Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education on September 1, 2017 for admission to the MBBS course.

On September 1, 2017, she had paid Rs 15,65,750 towards first-year fees. It is the contention that she was orally assured admission and neither an acknowledgement nor an allotment letter was given.

Further, on September 8, 2017, as demanded by the institution's principal, she had also submitted a bank guarantee of Rs 52,50,000. However, the institution informed her that all the seats had been filled and the admission list had already been sent to the Medical Council of India (MCI).

The counsel for the petitioner submitted that the institution had admitted candidates with lower rankings than Sanjana and the then Chancellor had also issued a letter on October 11, 2017, assuring her a free medical seat from the management quota for the academic year 2018-19 for the entire course of four-and-a-half years without any fees.

In the next academic year, Sanjana appeared for NEET-2018 and was allotted a seat in Basaveshwara Medical College. She submitted a representation to the Siddhartha institution and when assurance of payment of fee was not fulfilled, a letter was also sent to the MCI.

On the other hand, the institution submitted that the university and college had no record of the assurance letter allegedly signed by the Chancellor and suggested the document was fabricated for litigation purposes. According to the institution, the then Chancellor was serious and had passed away on July 26, 2018.

The division bench noted that if the letter was obtained by force and coercion as contended by the college, no complaint of any nature has been submitted before any authorities by the institution or the principal. "We are therefore of the opinion that there was justification in the student having waited to see whether the assurance held out by the Chancellor would be honoured by the institution. We therefore cannot accept the contention that there is any undue delay on the part of the petitioner in approaching this court," the bench said.

The court further said, "She paid the first-year fees before the prescribed date, and she also provided the bank guarantee immediately thereafter, that is, on September 8, 2017. Hence, we are of the opinion that this is a fit case where compensation should be awarded to the petitioner by the respondent-college for the denial of admission for the year 2017-2018. Though the counsel for the petitioner vehemently contended that the compensation to be granted should be referable to the entire fee she paid for the MBBS course undergone by her in the subsequent year, that is, 2018-19, we are unable to accept the said contention," the bench said.

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'CAG report's conclusions on guarantees incorrect'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chairperson of the Guarantee Implementation Authority H M Revanna on Monday expressed his strong disapproval of the conclusions drawn in the Comptroller Auditor General's (CAG) report on the state's flagship welfare schemes. The report's suggestion that the guarantee schemes were exacting a toll on the state's resources was 'far from the truth', opined Revanna at a press conference.

Pointing out that per capita income and GST collection had risen as a result of the guarantee schemes, Revanna added, "The CAG report should study the grants and provide a report. Analysing programmes isn't right. Stating that development and income have been impacted isn't correct." Revanna said that he would hold a discussion with chief minister on how to respond to the report.

Revanna said that Rs 94,177 crore had been spent on the guarantee schemes.

"Uttara Kannada district has volunteered out of the guarantee scheme. This is a good development. This scheme should reach those who are in need of it. Due to income tax confusion, 1.2 lakh eligible beneficiaries of Gruha Lakshmi scheme were denied benefits. We have now cleared the confusion and added 59,000 people," he added.

13 MPs recommend 60% devpt funds for building community halls

MPs below 50 years bat for development works

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Thirteen of the 28 Lok Sabha members from Karnataka have recommended more than 60% of their Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme fund for construction of community halls and bus shelters.

Of the 2,449 works recommended by the MPs, cutting across party lines, nearly 1,130 works pertain to community hall construction at an estimated cost of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh each. While all the MPs have recommended allocation of funds for construction of community halls, however, it is Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and H D Kumaraswamy, former chief ministers Basavaraj Bommai (Haveri) and Jagadish Shettar (Belagavi), Ramesh Jigajinagi (Vijayapur) and P C Gaddigoudar (Bagalkot), who have recommended the highest.

More than 90% of their funds are proposed for construction of community halls.

However, on the contrary MPs below the age of 50 years, are recommending development works such as renovation of school buildings and providing them smart classrooms, furniture, digital and conventional libraries; concrete roads, drinking water plants, streetlights, borewells, among others.

Since the commencement of the 18th Lok Sabha (from May 2024), the 28 MPs from Karnataka have recommended 2,449 works worth Rs 274.40 crore, out of which so far only 12 works worth Rs 17.50 crore have been completed.

Of the total recommended works, nearly 80% are still unsanctioned. The MPs have another three-and-half years term to get these works sanctioned and executed through the district administration.

There are no hard and fast rules regarding how an elected representative spends Rs five crore per year allocated for their constituency, which usually consists of seven to eight assembly constituencies.

Shimoga MP B Y Raghavendra, Mallesh Babu (Kolar), Brijesh Chowta (Dakshina Kannada) and Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya were the only ones who had the least amount spent on community hall and more on development works.

Raghavendra spent on construction of concrete roads, installation of high mast lights and purchase of smart boards for government schools.

BJP's firebrand leader Tejasvi had diverse works such as drilling of borewells and installing pumpsets, purchasing books for government school libraries, installation of CCTV cameras, among others.

Dakshina Kannada MP Brijesh Chowta has proposed the installation of kabaddi mats, road development and milk producers co-operative society development works. Mallesh has recommended concrete roads and installation of high mast lights in multiple villages of his constituency.

Construction of concrete roads and drainage-lines was the next preferred option for the MPs followed by recommending bus shelters and stops. Of the 282 works recommended by Kota Srinivas Poojari's (Udupi-Chikkamagaluru MP) 90% is for construction of CC roads, linking roads and public toilets in his constituency.

E Tukaram, a first-time MP from Bellary, has decided to spend more than 75% of his funds on installing digital libraries at government schools, followed by three-wheeled bikes and hearing aids for specially-abled persons.

K Sudhakar (Chikkaballapur), and Sagar Khandre (Bidar) will spend substantial funds on installing high-mast lights in rural areas of their constituency, while another first time MP Shreyas M Patel (Hassan) will spend on installing drinking water plants.

Chitradurga MP Govind Karjol has recommended construction of a mortuary freezing chamber at government hospitals in the district.

Cong finalises four names for MLC nominations

BENGALURU, DHNS

Dalit leader F H Jakkappanavar, senior journalist K Shivakumar, Congress' communications chief Ramesh Babu and Karnataka NRI Forum deputy chairperson Arathi Krishna have been shortlisted to become MLCs nominated by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, sources said.

Four MLC positions that were held by C P Yogeshwar, U B Venkatesh, Prakash Rathod and K A Thippeswamy are vacant. These four nominations - done through the Governor - are expected to give the Congress a simple majority in the Legislative Council so that it can pass Bills without hassles.

The Congress has picked two SCs, one OBC and one Vokkaliga. OBCs, one SC and one Vokkaliga.

Jakkappanavar, from Hubballi-Dharwad, earlier headed the Karnataka Congress' Scheduled Castes wing. In 2008, he unsuccessfully contested polls from the Hubli-Dharwad (East) constituency. An SC (Right), Jakkappanavar is said to be Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's pick.

Shivakumar is a Mysuru-based journalist who is also said to be SC (Right).

"The party wanted SC (Right) representation in the Legislative Council to counter Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy," a senior Congress leader said.

Babu is an advocate by training and has been involved in the cooperation sector for over three decades. He is also an educationist: the Ankitha Education Trust in Chikkanayakanahalli is his. Babu, who is a Naidu, was an MLC when he was with the JD(S).

Arathi, a Vokkaliga, is an AICC secretary attached to the Indian Overseas Congress & Foreign Affairs. She is the daughter of former minister Begane Ramaiah.

It is said that Babu was IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge's choice while Arathi had Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's backing.

Earlier, Dalit activist D G Sagar from Kalaburagi and senior journalist Dinesh Amin Mattu were finalised. However, Sagar faced opposition as he migrated to Congress only recently. Similarly, there was backlash to Mattu saying that he has not contributed to the party in terms of organisation.

Row over Banu's 2023 speech on Kannada deity

BENGALURU, DHNS

Pushback intensified Monday against the Congress government's decision to invite Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate Mysuru Dasara festivities after a video went viral in which she criticised the worship of the Kannada language in the form of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari.

At the 2023 Jana Sahitya Sammelana, Banu Mushtaq had said the appropriation of Kannada as Goddess Bhuvaneshwari draped in yellow and red, the colours of turmeric and vermilion, was "exclusionary" to people like her (minorities).

BJP state president B Y Vijayendra asked Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate the Mysuru Dasara only after accepting the Sanatana culture and rituals.

"The Sanatana Dharma includes idol worship and offering prayers to the deity. Do you agree with that? If you agree, then make your stand public and inaugurate the Dasara festivities," he said.

Vijayendra also took exception to Siddaramaiah's decision to invite only Banu Mushtaq and ignore translator Deepa Basthi.

Hindutva proponent Chakravarthy Sulibele asked how Banu Mushtaq agreed to "bow down before Chamundeshwari's grandeur when she cannot tolerate Kannada Bhuvaneshwari".

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya claimed that there was a bigger "game plan" behind having Banu Mushtaq inaugurate Dasara.

"The so-called Anti-Communal Task Force, the Hate Speech Bill, the Rohith Vemula Bill pushed at Rahul Gandhi's insistence, the dubious Dharmasthala SIT, and now the Congress government's decision to have Smt Banu Mushtaq - who has openly expressed her opposition to the worship of Kannada as mother Bhuvaneshwari, objected to the Hindu cultural symbolism associated with the Kannada flag - inaugurate the sacred Dasara Chamundeshwari Pooja - all these are not isolated moves," Surya said in a tweet.

"They are part of a single, well-orchestrated game plan scripted by urban naxals and Marxists, executed with the full enthusiasm of Siddaramaiah and the Congress state government. We must see through this design and resist it with all our strength," Surya said.

Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa defended the government's decision.

"Banu Mushtaq has made the entire country proud by winning the Booker Prize. The Constitution says all are equal. We believe in the Constitution," he said.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil pointed out that the Mysuru Dasara was a cultural event and not a religious one. "The government's decision to have Banu Mushtaq inaugurate the festival is widely acceptable. It needn't be politicised," he said.

'I have respect for Mother Chamundeshwari'

HASSAN, DHNS: Amid the controversy over the naming of International Booker Prize–winning Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq for inaugurating Dasara—with a few BJP leaders and others opposing it, citing her faith—the writer has clarified, saying, "I have respect for Mother Chamundeshwari."

Banu Mushtaq

After receiving a bagina (a traditional offering) from Shashikala, founder of the Bengaluru-based Ammana Madilu organisation, Banu Mushtaq said, "Terming Dasara a state festival and referring to Mother Chamundeshwari with love and affection is a part of our culture. That's why it is dear to me as well."

"People call her Mother Chamundeshwari. I respect the people's sentiment. Many call the Dasara festival a Naada Habba (state festival), and I respect that too," the writer said.

"Dasara is a festival in which I have also participated earlier, with love. I used to go with my parents many times to watch the Jamboo Savari of Mysuru Dasara. Now, I am happy that I have been invited to inaugurate the festival," she added.

Yaduveer seeks 'clarification'

MYSURU, DHNS: Mysore-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has sought Banu Mushtaq to clarify on her reverence towards Tayi Bhuvaneshwari and Tayi Chamundeshwari.

"Smt. Bhanu Mushtaq is a distinguished writer in her own right and, as the first Kannada author to win the Booker Prize, she has brought great pride to the Kannada literary fraternity. However, it has come to our notice that she has made certain past remarks regarding Tayi Bhuvaneshwari. We wish to firmly reiterate that Dasara is not merely a cultural event, but a Hindu Dharmic Utsava - rooted in the Shastra & Puranas and celebrated with grandeur since the days of the Vijayanagara Samrajya and the Mysuru Samsthana. Given this sacred legacy, it is only appropriate that Smt. Mushtaq clarify her reverence towards Tayi Bhuvaneshwari and Tayi Chamundeshwari before consenting to preside as Chief Guest of this year's Dasara celebrations," (sic) Yaduveer said in his post on social media platform X.

Earlier in the day, Yaduveer, a descendant of the Wadiyar dynasty had said that the issue is resolved if Banu Mushtaq says that she respects Mother Chamundi.

He also said that writer Deepa Bhasthi, who translated Banu Mushtaq's work, should also be invited to inaugurate the Dasara festivities.

Home Minister G Parameshwara being felicitated during 'Paramothsava', to mark his 74th birthday, in Mysuru, on Monday. Seer Jnanaprakash Swami of Urilinga Peddi Mutt, MLAs Tanveer Sait, K Harish Gowda and Darshan Dhruvanarayan are seen. DH PHOTO

HM calls for a movement to secure rights and power

MYSURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara has called for a movement to secure "rights and power."

"Be prepared for a movement in the coming days. If you don't struggle, it will be an insult not just to me, but for Ambedkar also," Parameshwara said while speaking at 'Paramothsava', convention in Mysuru on Monday.

The event was organised by Dr G Parameshwara Abhimanigala Balaga to mark his 74th birthday celebration.

Referring to the speech of seer of Urilinga Peddi Mutt Jnanaprakash Swami and the demand of his supporters that he should become chief minister, Parameshwara said, "The swamiji is right in saying that the community is standing strong behind the Congress. Why has this situation, asking for an opportunity for the Dalit community, come? Should not the party show generosity? Ambedkar has given the voting power to all. If the society does not change, we should change it. If injustice is done to the community, people can use the votes to get justice".

Earlier, the seer said, "Even though the Dalits are number one in population, no one has become CM so far. The national party should do justice by nominating Parameshwara as the CM...If the party betrays them, the people will teach the Congress a lesson."

"The organisers faced many obstacles in holding this 'Paramothsava' in Mysuru. Yet, they organised it. Many people did not want this to happen. But, I told Bilikere Raju, the organiser, that I will attend the event, even if he alone is present at the venue," Parameshwara said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Adv. Satyajit S. Kulkarni
Civil Misc. Application no.186/2025
PUBLIC NOTICE Exhibit-7
In the court of Hon'ble Civil Judge Senior Division, Sangli,
1) Anirudha Somanath Shete, Age - 52 years, Occupation - Dentist, R/o. Adinath nagar society, duplex Flat no. F-2, near Amrai, Sangli - 416 416.
2) Pallavi Sanjay Charati, Age - 54 years, Occupation - Household, R/o. E-51, Kalpataru Jade Residencies, Pancard club Road, Baner, Pune - 411 045. ...Applicant
Versus
Nobody - ....Opponent
Application for Succession Certificate u/sec. 372 of Indian Succession Act, 1925
1) Applicant no.1 are permanent resident of Adinath nagar society, duplex Flat no.F-2, near Amrai, Sangli and applicant No 2 E-5 1,Kalpataru Jade Residencies, Pancard club road, Baner, Pune-411045.
2) Mr. Abhijit Somanath Shete expired on 30/5/2023 at Sangli. His ordinary residence at the time of death was at Adinath Nagar Society, Duplex Flat no. F 2, near Amrai, Sangli, Taluka Miraj, District Sangli. Applicant No. 1 and 2 are only Class-1 legal heirs of Late Abhijit Somanath Shete as per Indian Succession Act. Applicant have filed present application to get Succession Certificate in this court.
Therefore if anyone has any objection in this respect those shall be present in this court himself/herself or through his/her legal representative on 29-09-2025 at 11.00 a.m. This court will decided order if no objection received from anyone within stipulated period as per law.
Handed over today dt. 14-08-2025 with stamp and signature of this court.
Sd/- Junior clerk Civil Court Sr. Dv. Sangali (Seal) Sd/- Superintendent Civil Court Sr. Dv. Sangali
Place: Sangli, Date: 14-08-2025

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, ADITI RAJESHWAR JEWLIKAR, have changed to New name ADITI JEWLIKAR, residing at G106, Shriram Spurthi Apartments, AECS Layout, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru- 560037, vide affidavit dated 25/08/2025 before Veena J., notary Bangalore

I NAMA KRISHNAMURTHY NARENDRA KUMAR ALIAS SANDEEP. R/a, S1 Sai Kausthubha , #739, 10th main, Jayanagar 4th block, Bengaluru -560011 Have Changed My Name From NAMA KRISHNAMURTHY NARENDRA KUMAR ALIAS SANDEEP To NAMA KRISHNAMURTHY NARENDRA KUMAR vide Affidavit Dated 25/08/2025 before Notary Mamatha N.K Bangalore

I, GIREESHA. D.V. S/o.Late. Venkatesh R/a#302, 18, Nagamangala Taluk Bellur Hobali Doddagatta Mudalamellahalli Post Mandya District 571418 have`changed my`Name to GIRISH. D.V. vide`Affidavit dated:21.8.2025 before`Notary DEEPA.M. Bengaluru

I , TIPPERUDRASWAMY HEDNE MANJUNATHA R/a.Flat.#104 Punnami Bliss`Annex Bellandur Railway Station`Road Opposite to JP Morgan Bengaluru-103, have`changed name THIPPERUDRASWAMY HEDNE MANJUNATHA vide`affidavit 25.08.2025 before`Notary Hemalatha Bengaluru.

I, GHOUSE SHARIFF residing at No.20, 4th Cross, VinayakaNagar, old Guddadahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore -560026 hereby state that in my Aadhar card my fathers name ISMAIL SHARIFF and in my passport it has mentioned as ISMAIL SHAREF. I hereby further declare that his actual name is ISMAIL SHARIFF Vide affidavit dated 25-08-2025 before Notary C Sharada, Bangalore.

I, SHANTHARAJU_N.S R/a#16/19 Platinum Arch, 1st`Cross 1st`Main, Old Gurappanapalya Main Road, BTM 1st`Stage Bengaluru-29, have changed_name MUHAMMAD HATIM vide`affidavit 25.08.2025 before`Notary Hemalatha Bengaluru.

JOB To Place your Classified Ads Contact: 9886213331

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, Lakshman Murthy G, Residing at Beeraiahnapalya, Kanasavadi, Doddaballapura Tq, have lost my Original Sale Deed and Gift Deed, Document No./ Identification: Beeraiahnapalya, Survey No. 169/15 While transit. If found please contact: 9480320724

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General

SALE PROPERTY Berlie Street, Langford Town, Site 3450sft, Builtup Two Floors, Details Email: johncurtis@rediffmail.com

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Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele),
RR Nagar Zone, 3rd Stage, BEML Complex
RR Nagar, Bengaluru-560 098.
No.BBMP/EE/ELE/RRN/TEND/03/2025-26 Date: 25.08.2025
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) Call-02
(Short Term) through KPP Portal only
(website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
The Executive Engineer (Ele), Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, invites tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in BBMP/ KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state Government organisations for works given in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works/Category
1.	Annual Electrical Maintenance and Repair works to Buildings coming under Ward No. 44 and 45, RR Nagar Zone (reserved for CAT-II(A)). Amount put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 20.34, EMD (₹. in). 50,000/-.
2.	Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generator, AMF Panel Boards and other Electrical Works to Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division Office Building (reserved for CAT-II(A)). Amount put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 33.63, EMD (₹. in). 67,500/-.
3.	Annual Electrical M & R to electrical crematorium and Animal crematorium including replacement of furnace coils, refractory materials, and periodic cleaning scrubbers using necessary spare parts, tools and skilled man power etc, complete at Ward No.41, Kottigepalya of RR Nagar Zone, (reserved for ST), Amount put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 40.22, EMD (₹. in). 40,500/-.
4.	Annual Electrical M & R to Electrical Crematorium including replacement of furnace coils, refractory materials, scrubber cleaning, of scrubbers using, necessary spare parts, tools and skilled man power etc, at Ward No.37, Peenya and Ward No.32, Kengeri of RR Nagar Zone, (reserved for SC), Amount put to tender (₹ in Lakhs): 40.24, EMD (₹.in). 40,500/-.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from 26.08.2025 (2) Tender must be submitted online through the KPP Portal on or before 04.09.2025 by 4:00 p.m. (3) The Technical bids will be opened on 06.09.2025 at 11:00 a.m.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele), RR Nagar Zone, BBMP.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಸಂ: 05/2025–2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.08.2025
ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ KW-1,2,3& 4 ರೀತಿ ಏಕಲಕೋಟೆ/ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ: 30.08.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿ: 25.08.2025 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿ: 01.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 02.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 03.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 04.09.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 15 ದಿನಗಳು/4/12 ತಿಂಗಳು, ಒಟ್ಟು 270 (ಇನ್ನೂರ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತು), ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.300.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.6.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾ.ಇಂ.,ಲೋ.ಇ.,ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

80 died in BMTC bus accidents...

BMTC buses, From Page 1

A senior traffic police officer said: "BMTC buses are large vehicles and cannot be brought to halt immediately when someone falls. A buffer of at least 10 feet is needed to stop the bus."

Poor road conditions and the overtaking of buses are major contributors to such accidents, the officer added and urged riders to exercise caution.

The BMTC stated that its drivers were not at fault in four of the five fatal accidents this month. One accident was due to passenger negligence and operational error by the e-bus driver.

"A majority of such accidents occur when two-wheeler riders attempt risky overtaking manoeuvres and lose control, resulting in collisions with the rear wheels of buses," it noted.

Regarding Sunday's accident, the corporation said the two-wheeler rider attempted to overtake the bus from the left and braked abruptly to avoid another vehicle ahead. The scooter skidded, and all three passengers fell onto the road. The child tragically slipped under the left rear wheel of the bus, it added.

The BMTC said that all drivers and conductors receive daily safety briefings. Drivers are suspended and lose two annual increments for the first fatal accident, and are dismissed from service for the second fatal accident. In the past year, 20 drivers were suspended over 20 fatal accident cases, it added.

Nishanth Joshi, an IT employee and regular two-wheeler rider, criticised bus drivers. "Only a few drivers halt the bus next to designated stops. Others just stop it in the middle of the road. The gap between the footpath and the bus is where we end up going. If buses stop fully to the left, we can overtake safely from the right."

GO on internal reservation & lifting of recruitment freeze issued

'Justice Das panel report accepted with modification of categories'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government issued a government order (GO) on internal reservations among the Scheduled Castes on Monday, lifting the freeze on job recruitments across government departments and allowing the respective departments to start hiring.

"The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) will take steps to begin direct recruitment to state civil service posts, which had been withheld due to the internal reservation issue. All departments and boards and organisations under them can also continue promotions," the order issued by the Social Welfare Department states.

The decision will end the freeze on recruitments, which was announced by the government on October 29, 2024, when it decided on a one-man commission to decide on internal reservations. Currently, the state government has 2.76 lakh job vacancies across 43 departments.

The GO notes that the Justice H N Nagamohan Das Commission report on internal reservation has been accepted with "necessary modifications."

The order also adds that the DPAR will take steps to issue a separate order on relaxing the age limit for candidates appearing for these recruitments.

The GO specifies the modifications to the Nagamohan Das Commission's categorisation. The Das Commission had divided the 101 SC castes in 5 categories – 'Most backward' communities-A (59 castes), Madiga and others-B (18 castes), Holeya and others-C (17 castes), Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha/'touchable' Dalits-D (4 castes) and AK, AD and AA-E (3 castes).

As per the new categorisation, 16 castes (Madigas and 15 other castes) have been categorised under category A. Category B includes 19 castes (Holeyas and 18 castes). Incidentally, the Parayas and Mogers, who had previously been grouped with Madigas/ SC (Left), have been included with Holeyas/ SC (Right). The third group comprises 63 castes (59 'most backward' castes and 'touchable' Dalits.

The GO also mentions the formation of a permanent Scheduled Castes Commission to study these castes based on mobility and available data and provide reports. On August 20, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced in the Legislative Assembly that a permanent scheduled castes commission will be formed.

The order further mentions that the SC/ST commission rules, 2002, will be adequately revised to allow the commission to make suitable revisions when fresh data and information come.

BBMP era ends in a week; GBA beckons

BMP, From Page 1

BBMP's existing office in Hudson Circle will be the headquarters of Bengaluru East Corporation, Yelahanka for Bengaluru North, Mahadevapura for Bengaluru East, RR Nagar for Bengaluru West, and Jayanagar for Bengaluru South.

Under each commissioner, who will be overseeing the corporation, there will be a joint commissioner for revenue and two chief engineers. Other than roads, responsibilities of managing lakes and storm water drains will directly come under the ambit of the same chief engineers, it's learnt. The GBA may have four special commissioners (finance, health, revenue and climate change).

There is, however, still confusion about the roles and responsibilities of GBA given that some of the powers associated with it are currently in the hands of urban development department (UDD), from administrative approval for corporation budgets and projects to appointment and posting of the senior staff.

On September 3, the government plans to form the delimitation commission to fix boundaries for the wards. The exercise is expected to go on till November 1. This is also the affidavit submitted by the government in the Supreme Court.

A senior BBMP official said the changes will not directly affect the public. "The idea of forming GBA and five corporations was to bring the municipal government closer to the people. The transition process will be smooth as the existing staff will be assigned by making certain changes. There will not be any major disruption," he said.

Special trains to clear festival rush

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate special trains to decongest regular trains for the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi, Dasara, Deepavali and Chhath festivals:

Train number 06550 will leave Bidar at 2.30 pm on August 27 and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 4.30 am the next day. Train number 06242 will leave Tirunelveli at 3.40 pm on August 27 and arrive at Mysuru at 5.50 am the next day.

Both trains will ply via Bengaluru.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over North Interior and at most places over Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka

Forecast Aug 26: Rainfall to occur at many places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	27.6	19.4	1.6
Bidar	29.8	20	00
Vijayapura	29.5	20.2	00
Dharwad	28.2	19.3	0.2
Haveri	27.8	20.8	01
Kalaburagi	30.8	21.2	00
Raichur	31.4	20.2	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	30.1	23.6	0.4
Karwar	314.	25.6	1.4
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.5	23.8	00

INTERIOR SOH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	0.5
Bengaluru	28.8	19.8	TR
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	30.9	18.6	2.5
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29.1	19.6	00
Davangere	29	20.5	00
Hassan	27.9	17.7	00
Mysuru	30.8	18	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	30.1	19.1	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	32.6	23.9	13
Kolkata	29.5	25.7	05
Mumbai	30.5	23.6	19
Chennai	35.3	27	00
Pune	27.7	21.4	0.2
Hyderabad	29.7	21.6	00
Th'puram	32.4	23.7	00

Members of microscopic nomadic communities stage a protest in Ballari on Monday, demanding 1% internal reservation. DH PHOTO

Microscopic nomadic communities demand 1% internal quota

BALLARI, DHNS: The members of microscopic nomadic communities on Monday staged a protest in front of the deputy commissioner's office here, demanding 1% internal reservation allocated among the SC communities.

They staged a sit-in at the DC office compound. The protesters demanded that the 59 microscopic nomadic communities should be allocated 1% reservation by retaining them Category-A as recommended by Justice H N Nagamohan Das Commission. They submitted a memorandum to the state government through the district administration. Several such protests were held across the state.

Rs 12 cr spent...

Potholes, From Page 1

Commuters raised similar concerns about Bannerghatta Road. However, a senior BBMP engineer, on the condition of anonymity, said the BBMP was only filling potholes and not addressing the root cause.

"The potholes don't appear on any road. They develop only when water stagnates on roads. This is because of poorly maintained shoulder drains due to which water enters and stagnates on roads," the engineer said.

That apart, infrastructure works also weaken roads, officials added. "There are many roads which would have been dug up by various agencies like BWSSB, Bescom, and KPTCL. Though they would have restored that stretch, the surrounding area would also have become weak and they develop potholes again," another senior official said.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said that it was difficult to take up permanent measures during the monsoon. "We can only take up temporary fixes owing to rain. Hence, they might reappear. However, long-term measures will be taken after the monsoon," Rao said.

'Not fundamental right': SC on commercial speeches of influencers

SC, From Page 1

"Whatever apology you have tendered, you go and tender that apology on your podcast or whatever channel. Display your unconditional apology there," the court told the counsels of the influencers.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, representing the Union government, submitted that the government would take some time to lay down guidelines for comedians and influencers.

He said the guidelines should try to find out if they can sensitise as far as possible it can go, and beyond the sensitisation, if it fails, then somebody should take responsibility for their faults.

The bench, however, said: "It is not only freedom of speech here. It is commerce. Commercial speech."

Referring to the judgment in the Amish Devgan case, the bench said: "We have classified speech as free speech and commercial speech, and prohibited speech...if you fall into the overlap of the commercial and prohibited, you have no fundamental right there."

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, representing the NGO, said good sense has prevailed "and all comedians have apologised".

Citing the Cinematograph Act, she said, one has to be sensitive to the issues and there should be guidelines in connection with disabilities, so that people can be put on notice that there are things which they cannot do.

The court said let the concerned ministry do some exercise in connection with these issues.

The bench said the guidelines must not be a knee-jerk reaction to one incident and it has to be broad-based, and added the court would like to see the opinion of domain experts.

Raina and the other comedians named in the case were present in the court.

In a note of caution, the court told them: "Today it's about disabled, next time it can be women, senior citizens, children... where will this end?"

The petitioner's counsel Singh suggested that instead of imposing a penalty on the respondents, the court could consider asking them to contribute to activities, which benefit the cause of disability and patients of rare diseases, and they should use their influence in a positive manner.

The bench said the defendant comedians would post an apology on their YouTube channels and also inform the apex court about the penalty they were willing to bear.

The court fixed the matter for further hearing in November.

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR
SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT BELAGAVI
(e-Procurement Tender Announcement)

Tender No: JDSWD/EST/CR-19/2025-26 Date: 21.08.2025

The e-Tender through e-Procurement portal in hereby invited from the eligible staff outsourcing agencies for the supply of Group C & D staff to the Hostels, residential schools and office, under social welfare department, Belagavi, for the period of one year from the date of issuing work order for the purpose.

Eligible bidders/firms may submit the filled in tenders as per the tender condition.

Tender Schedule

1	Last Date to submit the tender through e-procurement	Date: 20.09.2025 5.30 pm through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in online
2	Date & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting	Date: 04.09.2025 11.00 AM office of the Joint Director, Social welfare Department, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi
3	Date & time of opening of technical bid on e-portal	Date: 22.09.2025 11.00 AM (Subject to change)
4	Tender Amount	Rs. 750.00 Lakhs
5	E.M.D. Amount	Rs. 11.25 Lakhs
6	Date & time of opening of Financial bid on e-portal	Date: 9.09.2029 11.00 AM (Subject to change)
7	Contact details of the office for further details regarding e-tender	Office of the Joint Director, Social welfare Department, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi. Tel: 0831-2407245

For more details can be obtained from the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in online

Sd/-
Joint Director
Social Welfare Department, Belagavi

DIPR/BGM/RO.NO.883/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

KPTCL, Transmission (Operations) Zone, Kalaburagi Invites bids from the eligible bidders for the following bid enquiry no:

I. No. CEE/OPRZ/KLB/SEE (O)/AEE-3/2025-26/6110 Date: 25.08.2025

Bid Enquiry No: CEE/Oprz/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2025-26/ Goods -4/CTs dtd:.17-07-2025 for Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of 110kV Current Transformers required for replacement / keeping as spare to utilize in case of emergency in the jurisdiction of Operation Divisions, KPTCL, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Shahabad & Humnabad (APT- Rs. 90,11,000.00). (Call-2).

II. No. CEE/OPRZ/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/6170 Date: 25.08.2025

Bid Enquiry No. : KPTCL/2025-26/SS/66kV Punabghatta 8MVA Replacement Dtd : 25-08-2025 for "Replacement of 1x8 MVA, 66/11Kv Power Transformer by 1x20MVA 66/11Kv Power Transformer at 66/11Kv Sub-station, **Punabghatta** in Harpanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara District."

III. No. CEE/OPR/KLB/SEE (O)/AEE-4/2025-26/6188 Date: 25.08.2025

Bid Enquiry No:KPTCL/2025-26/SS/Shahapur 100MVA CALL-2 Dtd:21.08.2025. for Replacement of failed 100MVA, 220/110kV power transformer with associated accessories at 220kV R/s **Shahapur** in Shahapur Taluk Yadgir District on TTK basis including Dismantling of 100MVA, 220/110kV Power transformer with associated accessories at 220kV R/s Allipura in Ballari District and Transportation of the Same with loading - unloading and erection of the same at 220kV Shahapur involving all materials/equipments, including testing and commissioning"-CALL-2 **(Short Term Tender).**

The bids will be received through Karnataka Public Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the Karnataka public procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **26.08.2025.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy, Transmission (Operations) Zone, Prasarana Bhavan, KPTCL, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_chickballapur@yahoo.co.in,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08156-275557, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08156-274742 ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.chikkaballapurcity.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನ.ಸ.ಚಿ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/ಟೆಂ-17/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.08.2025

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರಂತೆ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು 2025-26ನೇ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿವಿಧ ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್-2.0) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕಡೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.09.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ಕಡೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.09.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.09.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ದಿನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನಾಗಿ ಘೋಷಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟರೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. **ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ವಿವರ: (1)** DMA/2025-26/0W/WORK_INDENT47699, **(2) DMA**/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 47708, **(3)** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47714, **(4)** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47722 (SC Reserved), **(5)** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47726, **(6) DMA**/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47732 (ST Reserved), **(7)** DMA/2025- 26/OW/WORK_INDENT47734, **(8)** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47739, **(9)** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47750, **(10)** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47629, **(11)** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47792(CAT-IIAReserved), **(12)** DMA/ 2025-26/WS/ WORK_INDENT46560/CALL-2, **(13)** DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT38948/CALL-2, **(14)** DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT38949/CALL-2

ಸಹಿ/-
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಸಹಿ/-
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂ೦ಖ್ಯೆ:171/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY
Please refer Classifieds on Sunday

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITA
(Government of Karanataka)
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HLBC Division, Channarayapatna-573116 Hassan District.
Tele Phone No. : 08176-252204 Fax No. : 08176-256650 E-Mail : eehlbcrp@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 05/ 2025-26 DATED :22.08.2025. Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Two cover System

On behalf of the Managing Director Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Electronic tenders on ITEMWISE TENDERS on Karnataka public procurement portal are invited by the Executive Engineer, No1, HLBC, Division, Channarayapatna in Karnataka from eligible KPWD/ CPWD/ Registered public organization contractors for the works mentioned here under. Total No of works 3 works Types of works Construction of road bridge, repairs, improvements, constructions and protective works for rain damages and roads under HLBC & SRDN atchkat in channarayapatna taluk Estimated Amount Rs. 419.08 Lakhs to Rs. 422.64 Lakhs E.M.D. Details Rs. 629000/- to Rs. 634000/- The contractor can obtain the documents and can access KPPP. For Two cover system works Contractors can download the documents from 25.08.2025, 15.09.2025 upto 4.00 PM will be the last date for submission of application through KPPP. Prebid Meeting 02.09.2025 Date of Opening of Technical bid will be on16.09.2025 at 5.00 PM, and financial bid will be opened soon after the approval of technical bid. If any variation found in amount put to tender and E.M.D, amount mentioned in the bid document will be consider as final. Note: Further details can be obtained from the above office or Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, No.1, HLBC Division, Channarayapatna, Hassan District.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/488/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024-25

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.

ZONAL OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St. Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.
e-mail: bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Phone: 080-22074610/604/613/624/625

BGRR/PvtSale/2025-26 NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD 25/08/2025

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-09-2025 as shown below:

Br. Bangalore/St. Marks Road: No. 9, Halcyon Complex, St. Marks Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560 001, Ph. No. 080-32994454 :- 11046400014148, 11046400014577,11046400014056. **Br. Bangalore/Indiranagar: 315/1, 100 Feet Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560 038, Ph No. 080-25212341 :-** 15356900001057,15356400059043,15356400060892,15356400060660,15356900001073,15356400042015,15356400063326,15356400060249,15356400059563, 15356900000588,15356100091338,15355600004346,15356100091452,15356400061510,15356100092419,15356400060496,15356400059423,15356100091916, 15356400055033,15356900004168,15355600004635,15356900002923,15356900004416,15356400054713,15356100092757,15356400059407,15356400060199, 15356400061031,15356400061296,15356400061114,15356400044680,15356100092005,15356400060686,15356400060652.

Br.Bangalore/Krishnarajapuram: Vsr Complex, Old Madras Road, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore Urban, Karnataka- 560 036 Ph. No. 080-25619070 :- 15616100192588,15616400024234,15616100193784,15616400024572,15616100195946,15616400024242,15616400023491,15616100190855,15616400023509, 15616400024259,15616100192869,15616100190848,15616400026650,15616100191945,15616400025041,15616100188230,15616400023574,15616400024937, 15616400024879,15616400025405,15616400022212,15610051020001.

Br. Bng/Rajaji Nagar: No. 60/60, Raj Chambers, Dr. Rajkumar Road, 2nd Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010, Ph: 080-23522007 :- 13346400285260, 13346400258010,13346400261352,13346400265114,13346400283075,13346400284016,13346400284040,13346400284495,13346500016490,13346500017332, 13346400289833,13346900015654,13346900014582,13346900014590,13346400282689,13346100675406,13346400265924,13346100685215,13346400287191, 13346400286029,13346400283620,13346400264299,13346400264307,13346100675315,13346100690389,13346400281442,13346400285385,13346400283323, 13346400283331,13346400290633,13346100681255,13346400289312,13346400284727,13346900015118,13346400286086,13346900014731,13346500017936, 13346400289841,13346400290211,13346900016686,13346400282432,13346400290054,13346400279958,13346400275246,13346900014913,13346100680802, 13346400286078,13346400275428,13346400275436,13346400275451,13346400275469,13346400275477,13346400288942,13346400237501,13346400287480, 13346400286607,13346900014277,13346400277697,13346400277689,13346400277671,13346100684622,13346900013519,13346400289866,13346400288678, 13346400288652,13346400282408,13346400282390,13346400287498,13346400288306,13346900015274,13346900013865,13346900015282,13346100677048, 13346900015191,13346400284610,13346900016520,13346400284628,13346400284826,13346400284636,13346400290799,13346400287423,13346400290419, 13346400288421,13346100680018,13346900013998,13346400290013,13346900015258,13346400290021,13346100686999,13346900014459,13346100686973.

Br. Basaveshwaranagar : #33, 1st main road, 3rd Stage, 4th block, West of Chord Road, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 079 :- 24666400005583,24666900000852,24665600000196,24666400008637,24666400010070,24666400011557,24666400010492,24666400011037,24666400002481, 24666400011052,24666400010534,24666400011078,24666400008728,24666400011045,24666400010757,24666400011185,24666900000837,24666400009882, 24666400011318,24666400011201,24666400010468. **Br. Bangalore/Vignana Nagar: chikkNo. 124, S R Plaza, Vignana Nagara, Main Road, Bangalore- 560 037 Ph. No. 080-25348901 :-** 16296900003613,16296900003704,16296900005139.

Br. Bangalore/Vijayanagar: Ground Floor of TRS Arcade, #3, 1st main road, Income Tax Layout, Opposite to AM Hospital, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560 040 Ph No. 080-23159121 :- 16436400119903,16436400101083,16436400124291,16436500008196,16436400124440,16436400095608, 16436400119416,16436400124366,16436400103642,16436400117444,16436900000538,16436400124747,16436400098768,16436400123921,16436400124374, 16436400124408,16436400073670,16436400087563,16436400115265,16436500011174,16436400096036,16436400089734,16436400123210,16436400115091, 16436400100234,16436100362050,16436400122592,16436400114961,16436400082739,16436400111272,16436400109458,16436400116552,16436400122758, 16436400123020,16436500007198,16436500010762,16436400122790,16436400123665,16436500007461,16436400123228.

Br. Chikkajala: Sri Byraveshwara Complex, No 82/3, Chikkajala Village, Chikkajala Post, KIAL Road, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore- 562 157, Ph. 080-28467032 :- 20866400056974,20866400059051,20866400057121,20866100057223,20866400051132,20866100055128, 20866900001082,20866900000928,20866900000902,20866900000985,20866900000829,20866900000886,20866400057881,20866400058079,20866400051447, 20866400039384,20866400057337,20866400058624,20866400058681,20866400056495,20866900000639.

Br. Chikkaballapura: No 1153/3, BB Road, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka, Chikkaallapura- 562 101 :- 20216400060560,20216400053540.

Br. Devanahalli: 135/9, Next To Corporation Bank, D B Cross, Devanahalli , Bangalore Rural- 562 110, Ph No. 080 27683906 :- 15296400108574,15296400186430,15296400187768,15296400188683,15296400189012,15296400189111,15296400189525,15296400172596,15296400190564, 15296400190960,15296400191810,15296400199912.

Br. Hirandahalli: Sy. No.81/1, Hirandahalli Main Road, Opp. Aswathakatte, Virgonagar P O, Bangalore- 560 049 Ph No:8867121675 :- 21636100019021,21636100018973,21636400105330,21636400109142,21636400104127,21636400058141,21636400106510,21636400104077,21636400100752, 21636100019013,15616400025405,21636400110009,21636400100307,21636400105140,21636100018981,21636400110603,21636400104077,21635500002710, 21636400104127,21636100019013,21636100018981,21636400104747,21636400104390,21636100018973,21636400104390,21636400108086,21636400105868.

Br. Hoskote: Gangamma Gudi Road, M V Extension, Hoskote, Bangalore- 562 114 Ph: 080-27933430 :- 15856400040513,15856400046858, 15856400039887,15856400051361,15856400040943,15856400040984,15856400048144,16596400086152,15856400041131,15856400029441,15856400029516, 15856400041792,15856100095825,15856100096310,15856400050942,15856400046767,15856400041792,15856400046346,15856400029516,15856400047070.

Bangalore 25-08-2025 Vice President & Zonal Head

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Gaza's famine is the world's shame

The declaration of a famine in the besieged Gaza should shame the world, which has failed to stop Israel's war crimes in the enclave. The International Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a UN-backed body which identifies hunger levels around the world, has declared that there is a man-made famine in Gaza and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has traced it to a "failure of humanity." The organisation has said Gaza is in Phase 5 of severe famine in which at least 30% of the children suffer from acute malnutrition and two out of 10,000 die every day due to starvation. It has said that a third of the population – nearly 641,000 people – are expected to face "catastrophic conditions". If the present conditions continue, nearly 1,32,000 children under five will face a threat to their lives. According to reports, at least 271 people, including 112 children, have died of starvation.

Israel has weaponised hunger to punish the people of Gaza and to force them out of their land. This has been its strategy since the 2007 blockade – the restrictions have increased since then. The total blockade imposed since March this year has stopped the entry of all goods, including food, into Gaza. Food distributed by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation does not reach even a fraction of the people who need it. People who rush to food centres have been shot. Harrowing pictures of malnourished children in their mothers' arms have haunted the world for many days. The IPC says that an "immediate at-scale" response is needed to avert a catastrophe. The UN's Palestinian refugee agency, UNRWA, says there are about 6,000 trucks waiting at the borders for permission to take food to Gaza. But there is a determined plan at work to choke the supply and starve the people.

Starvation heightens the humanitarian crisis. The global community is complicit in inaction

While talks for a ceasefire are continuing, the Israeli defence ministry has called up 60,000 reservists to seize and occupy Gaza City. Israel's backers are guilty of complicity in its crimes. The decision of some of its allies such as Britain to recognise a Palestinian state will not make much of a difference on the ground. Last week, the US sanctioned some international criminal court judges and prosecutors who are handling a case against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The global community has till now watched helplessly the atrocities on the Palestinians. The continuing military offensive and starvation in Gaza raise important moral and ethical questions. It is unfortunate that the world has chosen to merely watch, with no sign of intent to intervene and set things right.

Wrong lanes, fatal consequences

In yet another tragic reminder of India's poor road safety standards, a young mother of two lost her life near the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru when a car driven on the wrong side of a flyover rammed into the scooter on which she was riding pillion. The 31-year-old was flung off the flyover and died instantly, while the driver who caused the horror sped away. This is no isolated incident. Wrong-side driving has become a pervasive menace on city streets and highways alike. Many drivers, seeking to save a few minutes by avoiding a U-turn or a longer detour, recklessly drive against the flow of traffic. On a high-speed stretch such as a flyover or a highway, the oncoming vehicle has little or no time to react. The result is often a head-on collision where the combined force of impact leads to serious injury or death.

Karnataka alone witnessed over 2.1 lakh road accidents and more than 60,000 deaths in the last five and a half years, according to a statement by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy in the legislative council. Human error and negligent driving remain the leading causes. Wrong-side driving is not a minor traffic violation; it is a conscious act of endangering others. The police must therefore crack down with zero tolerance. Heavy penalties, suspension of licences, and even imprisonment in grievous cases are warranted. Enforcement must be consistent and visible, not confined to occasional drives. Alongside penalties, police need to intensify awareness campaigns to educate road users about the dangers involved. After all, one person's negligence on the road can have catastrophic consequences, wrecking another family.

The tragedy near KIA underlines the need for a multi-pronged, zero-tolerance approach to road safety enforcement

However, enforcement alone will not solve the problem. Road safety should be treated as a cultural and educational priority. Introducing traffic rules and road etiquette into the school curriculum is long overdue. Children should learn the meaning of traffic signals, road signs, and the necessity of wearing helmets and seat belts before they take the wheel. More importantly, they should be taught the spirit of road behaviour – patience, courtesy, and the understanding that every reckless act has consequences for others. Countries that have adopted systematic road safety education have seen a sharp fall in youth-related accidents. The tragedy near KIA is a grim reminder that road safety is not just about rules but about respect for life. If drivers fail to act responsibly, the toll will continue to mount. The government, police, and civil society must act in unison to stamp out wrong-side driving and the reckless mindset that fuels it, before more lives are lost.

GUARANTEE SCHEMES

Can social spending also make fiscal sense?

The fiscal risks highlighted by the CAG are real but Karnataka can find answers by repurposing the schemes as social investments

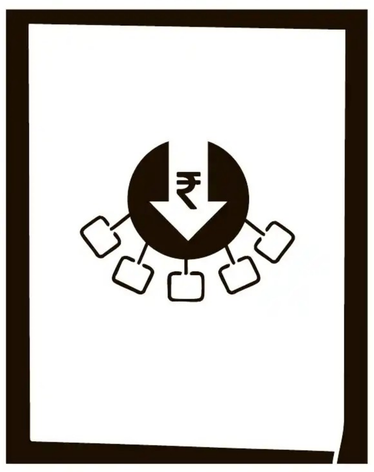
RAJESHWARI U R

The introduction of Karnataka's five guarantee schemes has placed the state at the centre of a national debate on the trade-offs between welfare expansion and fiscal sustainability. Launched with the objective of addressing poverty, gender inequality, and livelihood insecurity, these schemes have achieved rapid scale and visibility. However, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has cautioned that their financing structure poses significant risks to the state's fiscal stability, particularly through rising borrowing and reduced capital formation. This raises the critical policy question: can Karnataka defend its guarantee model as a socially productive investment, while ensuring that its long-run growth trajectory remains intact?

In the financial year 2023-24, the guarantee schemes accounted for nearly 15% of the state's total revenue expenditure, amounting to approximately Rs 36,538 crore. To sustain this outlay, the state borrowed about Rs 63,000 crore, which widened the fiscal deficit and forced reductions in capital expenditure. Reports indicate that capital spending declined by roughly Rs 5,229 crore in that year, leaving over 3,140 projects incomplete compared to 1,864 in the previous year. This crowding-out effect corroborates the CAG's concern that continued expansion of such commitments could compromise the state's capacity to invest in infrastructure, which is crucial for long-term productivity growth. Indeed, the 2024-25 Budget projected capital expenditure at Rs 54,374 crore, an increase of nearly 20% over the revised estimate of 2023-24 (Rs 45,429 crore). This sharp rise after the previous year's contraction signals a deliberate attempt by the government to restore balance, protecting growth-oriented spending even while sustaining welfare commitments.

Yet, the fiscal strain tells only one side of the story. The guarantees have also produced measurable improvements in social indicators, particularly in relation to gender empowerment, mobility, and consumption security. The Shakti scheme, which provides free bus travel for women, recorded more than one billion trips within its first six months. Women saved between Rs 700 and Rs 1,300 per month on commuting, with these savings often redirected towards food, education, and healthcare. This reduction in mobility costs is consistent with global empirical findings that lower transport barriers enhance women's labour market participation and overall household welfare.

Similarly, the Gruha Jyothi scheme, offering free electricity up to 200 units, currently covers more than 1.6 crore households. This has eased financial stress, while improving conditions for education and health within homes. Anna Bhagya, through free grain distribution and cash transfers, has supported food security for over one crore families. Gruha Lakshmi, perhaps the most ambitious scheme, provides Rs 2,000 per



month to women heads of households, with allocations exceeding Rs 28,000 crore in 2024-25. Although long-term effects on poverty dynamics are still under study, evidence from comparable contexts indicates that such predictable cash flows enhance women's bargaining power, stabilise consumption, and strengthen child nutrition outcomes.

The Government of Karnataka has claimed that 1.2 crore families have been lifted out of poverty and that up to five crore individuals may transition into middle-class status due to these interventions. While such assertions require independent verification, they signal the redistributive ambition underpinning the guarantees. Moreover, the state's Economic Survey (2024-25) indicates that developmental expenditure has continued despite fiscal strain, suggesting that welfare expansion and growth-oriented investment need not always be mutually exclusive.

Refining the growth model

Reconciling the apparent contradiction between fiscal stress and social progress requires re-conceptualising these schemes as social investments rather than mere subsidies. By reducing vulnerabilities, expanding women's agency, and improving basic consumption security, the guarantees generate externalities that may enhance productivity and broaden the state's tax base in the long run. However, the extent to which these benefits materialise depends on rigorous monitoring and whether the schemes are structured to minimise inefficiencies and leakages.

A feasible pathway forward lies in balancing inclusivity with fiscal prudence. Improved targeting could reduce the fiscal cost without diluting social impact, for instance, refining eligibility under Shakti or Gruha Jyothi based on income thresholds. Digital beneficiary databases and Aadhaar-linked transfers already provide Karnataka with the tools for such rationalisation. In addition, guarantees should be linked to future revenue buoyancy: if expanded consumption and participation raise GST and state tax collections, a portion of these gains can be earmarked to sustain the programmes. This would allow the schemes to become, at least partially, self-financing.

At the same time, Karnataka must strengthen its revenue base by improving property tax collection, rationalising non-merit subsidies, and enhancing mining royalty administration. Expanding fiscal space through such measures can offset the revenue foregone in welfare commitments. Equally important is the preservation of capital expenditure. Public-private partnerships in infrastructure can free resources that would otherwise be crowded out, ensuring that welfare and growth-enhancing investment proceed in tandem. Finally, periodic independent evaluations of outcomes are essential. Schemes that display weaker multipliers in reducing poverty or enhancing empowerment should be redesigned or merged to maximise efficiency.

The CAG's caution about fiscal risks is well-founded and cannot be ignored. Yet, the guarantee schemes have undeniably advanced critical social objectives in Karnataka, particularly for women and vulnerable households. Their long-term justification will depend on whether they are managed as productive social investments, embedded within a framework of fiscal discipline and outcome-based evaluation. Karnataka's challenge is not to roll back guarantees, but to refine them so that they reinforce rather than undermine its growth trajectory. The durability of this model will rest on the state's ability to demonstrate that inclusive welfare and fiscal responsibility can co-exist as twin pillars of development.

(The writer is an associate professor, Department of Economics, Christ Deemed to be University)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The making of an accidental cook

My grandmother isn't here to witness my culinary journey or taste the upma

ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

The notion held by my grandmother that a man couldn't "manage" the kitchen as effectively as a woman – a belief she often reinforced with gentle teasing aimed at my grandfather's comical attempts at even the simplest tasks, like brewing a decent filter coffee.

This belief, a familiar refrain during my early childhood, persists within my family even now. My world of culinary understanding, however, began to expand when my adolescence saw a move to my parents' place, where I discovered my mother's talent for multi-cuisine dishes, a talent that perhaps blossomed in our diverse neighbourhood.

One evening it might be a flavourful *biryani*, the next perhaps a delicious homemade pizza, showcasing a culinary versatility I hadn't experienced before. Breakfast past 8 o'clock in the morning was either *rotis, puris*, or the occasional South Indian delight. Lunch for my father at quarter past twelve meant my mother's cooking was complete by 11.30 am. Dinner was a later affair, at 10 o'clock in the evening, with bedtime at 11.30 pm.

My career's frequent postings exposed me to the diverse world of street food, where the speed, ingenuity, and incredible flavours born from simple preparations consistently captivated me. Though I never envisioned recreating them, this fascination found its opportunity during the unexpected pause of the Covid-19 lockdown.

This new hobby soon led to enthusiastic taste tests with my daughters. My initial forays also involved preparing my own batter and achieving those perfectly golden brown *masala dosas*, served with *sambar* and coconut *chutney*, a testament to my growing confidence in the kitchen, which eventually led them to jokingly declare me their "street food chef", a title that stuck.

My sons-in-law regularly visited us to enjoy my *masala dosas, upma*, and *idlis*.

One Sunday, my usually reserved elder son-in-law exclaimed, after a generous serving of *upma*, "This tastes great, even better than what we get in that famous South Indian restaurant!" The nutty aroma of the roasted semolina mingling with the fresh curry leaves in the *upma* was particularly satisfying to create.

That seemingly simple compliment was a testament to how far I had progressed in perfecting my hobby.

My wife now jovially remarks that I've surpassed her cooking skills.

Nonetheless, my only regret is that my grandmother isn't here to witness this journey, perhaps even to sample my *upma*. I often recall her gentle teasing of my grandfather's kitchen attempts, a reflection of the traditional view of cooking as a woman's domain.

It would have been a powerful moment to show her that those roles aren't so rigid and that I, the once-observing grandson, have found my own place in the kitchen, rather as an "accidental cook".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BJP leaders should stop creating needless controversies

Apropos 'Yatnal, Simha oppose writer Banu Mushtaq as Dasara Chief guest' (Aug 25), the objections raised are irrelevant and unnecessary. Doubting Mushtaq's religious compatibility is a clear attempt to create a false narrative in keeping with the BJP's known divisive policies. When the Booker Prize-winning author has gladly accepted the state government's invitation to be the chief guest at the Dasara inaugural function and feels it a great honour, why should anyone else be bothered about her religious beliefs? The state government is entirely justified in selecting her as the chief guest, upholding the religious harmony and secular history of Karnataka exemplified by greats such as Shishunala Sharif to Nissar Ahmed.

Vijaya Krishna Kumar K T, Bengaluru

Regressive and biased

Apropos 'Unease over new laws in Uttarakhand' (Aug 25), the three Bills hastily passed by the Uttarakhand State Cabinet appear regressive and biased. Policies grounded in religious ideologies contravene the spirit of the Constitution and undermine fundamental rights, particularly those of minority communities. The government must refrain from interfering in matters of individual choice.

J A Nathan, Bengaluru

Pollution, not faith

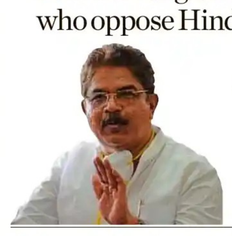
Apropos 'Volume check: Law must prevail' (Aug 23), as the Gauri-Ganesha festivities approach, it is pertinent to note that the Karnataka police guidelines on noise limits and immersion timings are not curbs on faith but rather the enforcement of laws mandated by the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, some BJP leaders are politicising these rules, wrongly framing them as anti-Hindu. Noise pollution is a violation of Article 21, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, and the courts have clearly restricted the use of loudspeakers after 10 pm. Religious fervour does not necessitate deafening decibels or unruly processions. Let us honour Ganesha with wisdom, not volume.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Dasara is a Hindu festival. In Islam idol worship is forbidden...If Banu Mushtaq does this (inaugurates Mysuru Dasara festival), people from her religion will oppose it. Why should those who oppose Hindus, worship Chamundeshwari? The government is tarnishing our religion...Siddaramaiah has a Tipu mentality.



R Ashoka, Karnataka Assembly LoP and BJP MLA

I would rather have a mind opened by wonder than one closed by belief.

Gerry Spence

TO BE PRECISE

'Hanuman Ji was the first to go to space': Former Union minister Anurag Thakur

IN PERSPECTIVE

RSS and the redefined patriot

With praise for the RSS in his I-Day address, the Prime Minister legitimises a contentious model of nationalism

MALINI BHATTACHARJEE

On August 15, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort, he made several important announcements regarding national security, jobs, self-reliance, and GST reforms. Tucked within his 103-minute speech, said to be the longest Independence Day speech by an Indian prime minister, was a historic moment – an acknowledgement of the 100-year journey of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its contribution to nation-building.

The Prime Minister extolled the organisation for its seva to the nation and paid tribute to the RSS *swayamsevaks* for dedicating their lives to *vyakti nirman* (character-building) and *rashtra nirman* (nation-building). Calling it the 'world's biggest NGO', Prime Minister Modi said *seva* (service), *samarpan* (dedication), *sanghatan* (organisation), and *apratim anushasan* (unparalleled discipline) form the identity of the organisation.

Why is this such an important moment in the political history of post-Independent India? Often hailed as the ideological fountainhead of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the larger Sangh Parivar, the RSS was established in 1925 by Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar. What began as a coterie of five hand-picked *swayamsevaks* by the founder himself quickly expanded to become a cultural and political movement that dedicated itself to 'nation building' with a distinct Hindu nationalist overtone.

Post-Independence, the organisation was banned thrice; the first time, after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination in 1948, the second, during the Emergency in 1975, and for a third time, soon after the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992. Perceived as a clear threat to the idea of Indian secularism by its detractors, RSS has been consistently marginalised in official state narratives and derided as a 'communal', 'unpatriotic' and 'violent' movement. Despite political marginalisation, the organisation continued to steadily build grassroots influence through its *shakhas* and initiatives in education, public health and related fields.

The recognition coming from PM Modi, who was once an RSS *pracharak* himself, is no small achievement for a movement that has traversed from being on an ideological fringe to now being an accepted part of India's State-sanctioned national identity. In some ways, it crystallises the RSS's gradual integration into the political structures it once critiqued and subtly completes a journey of normalisation.

For several decades, critics have mocked the Sangh Parivar for their alleged lack of participation in the freedom movement. The inclusion of RSS history in a national address by the most powerful political authority challenges and perhaps even reorders the hierarchy of established national contributions. Further, by drawing attention to *seva, samarpan, sanghatan*, and *anushasan* as the RSS' defining characteristics, the Prime Minister presents it not just as a legitimate actor within the national fold, but as an equally patriotic model alongside, or perhaps, even in contrast to, more familiar frameworks of the Nehruvian, Gandhian, or Leftist visions.

The politics of memory

Every nation, from time to time, curates its history. Who is remembered and who is excluded from it often reveals not just the past, but also the priorities of the present. For several decades after Independence, the Indian State eulogised a particular version of nationalism which was considered more inclusive, secular, and rooted in the freedom struggle led by the Congress. The RSS, with its alternative vision of nationhood, was excluded from this history. In less than two minutes of his speech, Modi quietly sought to rewrite that script. By acknowledging RSS as a contributor to the nation's development story, he granted it legitimacy as a part of India's social and historical framework.

There are broadly two ways of looking at this: first, does the acknowledgement of one ideological strand come at the cost of marginalising or burying the other? Or is this an important broadening of the national story and a long-overdue nod to multiple contributions to India's nation-building project?

While RSS and BJP supporters have hailed the reference as a rightful recognition of a century of national service, opposition parties have expressed disappointment. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh called it the 'most troubling element' of the speech and a 'blatant breach' of the spirit of a constitutional, secular republic. Asaduddin Owaisi called the RSS praise 'an insult to the freedom struggle', alleging that the RSS and its allies 'served as British foot soldiers' and 'hated Gandhi more than they ever opposed the British'.

But beyond the political debates, there is an underlying reality. The inclusion of RSS in the national narrative signals the attempt to forge a new consensus. It reminds us that national narratives are not static. The idea of India, after all, is not a single story but many competing stories. On certain key occasions, we choose which ones to tell.

(The writer is a faculty at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru)

Simpler, not fairer: Why GST 2.0 misses the point

JYOTI KUMARI RAO

Every month, India's middle class begins with a familiar loss. Almost a third of their salary disappears into income tax before a single rupee is spent. What remains is steadily eroded by the Goods and Services Tax (GST), levied on groceries, medicines, school uniforms, bus fares, and electricity bills. Technically, GST is not double taxation. But in reality, it feels exactly that: taxed once at source, taxed again at every purchase.

The government's latest promise, GST 2.0, is being projected as a Diwali "bonus". Four slabs are to be collapsed into two, with most goods taxed either at 5 or 18%, while a 40% bracket is reserved for luxury and sin goods. Many products currently taxed at 12% will move to 5%; a large share of those in the 28% slab will shift to 18%. Cars, insurance, appliances, and construction inputs are likely to become cheaper. The official message is clear: rate rationalisation equals relief.

For salaried households already paying a 30% marginal income tax, this offers little comfort. Simplification does not change the arithmetic: heavily taxed when they earn, and again when they spend. It is reform in design, not relief in practice. Consider a family earning Rs 50,000 a month. After income tax, they have about Rs 35,000. Every rupee of that is spent on consumption -- milk, vegetables, bus fares, children's school supplies, and medicines -- all subject to GST. Moving some items from 12 to 5% may save a few hundred rupees, but the structural "double bite" remains. GST 2.0 does not alter this reality.

Nor does it address a deeper inequity. A National Institute of Public Finance and Policy study using the 2022–23 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey shows that in rural India, the bottom 50% of households bear 31% of the GST burden, almost identical to the 30% borne by the middle 30%. In urban areas, the pattern is similar: 29% for the bottom half, 30% for the middle. The wealthiest 20%, despite far higher incomes, account for only 37–41%.

This flat distribution is the very definition of regressivity. The shop clerk and the mid-level banker shoulder the same share of their income as GST, while the affluent escape with only a slightly higher proportion. GST 2.0 simplifies; it does not equalise.

The government's optimism about GST 2.0 rests on tax buoyancy, the belief that a simpler structure will boost compliance and revenues faster than GDP. But buoyancy built on indirect taxes is regressive. It means the middle and lower classes, who consume nearly all they earn, are carrying the revenue surge while direct-tax bases remain narrow.

Only about 6–7% of Indians pay income tax. Direct-tax elasticity -- revenues rising strongly with income and wealth -- remains shallow. Instead, the exchequer relies on GST buoyancy: easy to collect but hardest on those least able to shield their consumption. The middle class becomes the fiscal shock absorber whenever the state seeks higher buoyancy. This is not sustainable. If GST buoyancy is celebrated while direct-tax reform stagnates, India's fiscal tilt towards regressivity will deepen. GST 2.0 does not rebalance this.

International practice shows that buoyancy can be paired with fairness. Canada zero-rates essential groceries and medicines under VAT. The UK exempts books and staple foods. Singapore runs a permanent GST Voucher scheme with cash transfers, MediSave credits, and utility rebates for low-income households. In some years, these offsets exceed their GST outgo, making the system progressive in net terms. New Zealand retains a single-rate GST but complements it with family benefits that restore equity.

India, by contrast, has offered no systemic offset since GST's launch. GST 2.0 focuses on simplification but ignores redistribution. A system that boasts buoyancy without fairness risks inequity and declining legitimacy. To gain legitimacy, GST must pivot from reform to relief. That means embedding quarterly GST rebates of Rs 3,000–Rs 5,000 for households below a pragmatic income threshold, credited directly to Jan Dhan or other verified accounts. Essentials –school uniforms, footwear, generic medicines, and public transport – should be zero-rated or minimally taxed, not at 12 or 18%. Input tax refunds for MSMEs must be guaranteed and time-bound so hidden financing costs do not cascade into consumer prices.

These are not abstract. A Rs 3,000 rebate could cover a month's milk or medicines for a modest-income family. Lower GST on bicycles could cut commuting costs for lakhs of workers. Faster refunds could prevent mid-year price hikes by small manufacturers. These are household realities, not technocratic fantasies.

Ultimately, taxation is not just about raising revenue; it is about preserving trust in the fiscal contract. Citizens comply when taxes are fair, predictable, and proportionate. They will tolerate high rates if the system respects equity. But when GST is lauded for buoyancy while households see no respite, trust erodes. And once trust is taxed, compliance itself becomes fragile.

GST was conceived in 2017 as a landmark reform born of rare political consensus, a federal bargain to unify India's market. GST 2.0 risks being remembered as a cosmetic rearrangement: administratively neat but socially blind. For the middle class, it feels like change without cure. Unless offsets balance the "double bite", the monthly ritual will continue: income taxed at the payslip, consumption taxed at the counter, and confidence in the system taxed in between.

The most corrosive tax is not levied on income or consumption. It is levied on trust -- the citizen's belief that the State sees them as more than a revenue source. GST 2.0 may simplify the architecture, but without moving from rationalisation to relief, from reform to fairness, it cannot win legitimacy. India has the fiscal tools, global models, and the administrative capacity to build equity into GST. What is missing is the political will to admit that efficiency alone is not enough; a truly modern tax system must also be just.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the IFMR GSB Krea University)

Videos taken by visitors to the isolated country provide a rare glimpse of how it's mimicking the consumerism of the outside world

JIAWEI WANG AND CHOE SANG-HUN

Stores in Pyongyang carry imitation Lego kits, Russian salami and North Korean beauty products. NYT

N Korea's glossy new surface: Apps, beaches, fake Starbucks

North Korea is taking inspiration from the West. In Pyongyang, elites drink coffee at a fake Starbucks and pay by mobile phone. About 100 miles away on the east coast, a seaside resort that's a pet project of the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, is stocked with foreign beers and decked out with water slides, ready to receive tourists.

To blunt the impact of international sanctions and bring in cash, North Korea is creating the look of prosperity by imitating its capitalist enemies.

The New York Times obtained footage from three recent visitors to the country: a Russian tourist, a Swedish marathon runner and a Chinese student. While the foreigners had North Korean chaperones and were not allowed to film construction sites and military personnel, they provided a rare glimpse into how Kim's modernisation plans are nurturing a new culture of consumerism in one of the world's most isolated and authoritarian countries. The goods they encountered are out of reach for most North Koreans, who earn, on average, a little more than $1,000 a year, according to South Korea.

'North Korean Ikea'

A student from China who is taking language classes in Pyongyang said he initially thought the country would be backward.

"I was worried about not having enough food or warm clothes," he said. "But when I arrived, I found it to be quite luxurious."

The student, whose name is being withheld out of fear of reprisals from officials, said one of the city's most upscale spots is a multistory shopping mall, Rangrang Patriotic Geumganggwan, which sells a range of furniture, kitchenware and food products. He said he and his fellow Chinese students called it "North Korean Ikea" because the layout and products looked like they had been directly lifted from the Swedish furniture company.

While it is unclear if the products are imitations or real ones that are smuggled in, some items like lamps and lampshades appear to have the same name and packaging as those sold at Ikea stores.

The mall also has a coffee shop that is a copy of Starbucks' premium brand, Starbucks Reserve, except that North Korea calls the cafe "Mirai Reserve." The star in the Starbucks Reserve logo is replaced with a stylised version of the letter M.

The student said he usually paid in US dollars and personally found prices in Pyongyang expensive, recalling the time he paid about $25 for three coffees at Mirai Reserve.

UN sanctions ban foreign brands from selling luxury goods to North Korea or opening joint business ventures there. Starbucks said it had no store in North Korea.

Jakob Holmström, an Ikea spokesperson, said the same was true of his company. "We have no authorised Ikea sales channels in North Korea," he said. "We are continuously monitoring for infringements of our intellectual property rights and, where appropriate, take action."

Kim condones and even encourages consumerism in Pyongyang because it is home to the elites, many of whom have travelled abroad as diplomats and traders or as workers sent to earn cash for the regime. They have been exposed to Western goods and have money and a taste for them, according to analysts and officials in South Korea. Kim seeks to draw some of the dollars these elites have privately amassed into state coffers, they said.

Most payments in the capital seem to be made with mobile phones, said Johan Nylander, 53, a Swedish runner from Hong Kong who participated in the Pyongyang marathon in April. Even small street vendors selling bottles of water and juice preferred digital payments via QR code over cash, he said.

"Mobile phones are a big part of daily life," Nylander said. "They have a lot of the apps that you can find in the rest of the world: video, texting, North Korean-style Uber and shopping."

Imitating Western consumer brands is a way for Kim to bring a look of modernisation.

"It shows duplicity in their approach," said Kang Dong-wan, an expert on North Korea at Dong-A University in South Korea. On one hand, the regime wants to show Pyongyang off as a modern city. On the other hand, however, it seeks not to acknowledge Western influence.

North Korea's 'Waikiki'

This summer, Kim opened his most ambitious resort project, the Wonsan Kalma beach complex. Called "North Korea's Waikiki" by South Korean media, it features a line of new hotels along a 2.5-mile-long scenic sandy beach.

At the opening ceremony, North Korean state media footage showed Kim walking around a colourful water park while watching people zip down water slides.

Last month, North Korea allowed the first foreigners into the resort, around a dozen tourists from Russia. Daria Zubkova, 35, a veterinarian from St. Petersburg, Russia, said North Korea had long been a country she wanted to visit, so she paid about $1,400 for the week-long trip.

Zubkova said everything appeared brand new, from the train that brought the group to the resort, to her hotel room and the beach amenities.

"It looks like a picture that was painted for you," she said.

The Russians sped around in personal watercraft and had barbecues on the beach with an assortment of beers from the United States, Japan and China. Zubkova said the food was plentiful, and her group ate a lot of seafood, *sashimi* and grilled meats. She said she even went shopping, buying a pair of Ugg-branded shoes because she had not been able to find her size in Russia.

Tourism is one sector of the economy that has not been sanctioned by the United Nations. Under Kim, "North Korea has considered tourism a multipurpose industry that could bring in foreign currency, create jobs, stimulate domestic consumption and improve the national image," said Choi Eun-ju, an analyst at the Sejong Institute in Seoul.

Zubkova said that she had not felt like she was being monitored because she was allowed to roam the resort freely, but that wherever she went there was always resort staff nearby, from lifeguards to waitresses and doctors. "I felt like a hero in a movie because everyone is watching you and whatever you ask is immediately fulfilled," she said.

But "promoting tourism presents North Korea with a dilemma in seeking a balance between openness and control," said Hwang Joo Hee and Na Yongwoo, analysts at the Seoul-based Korea Institute for National Unification, in a report published in March.

Since 2020, North Korea has enacted a series of draconian laws aimed at cracking down on outside cultural influence. Tourism runs the risk of weakening Kim's totalitarian control on information, a key to maintaining his unquestioned authority. Information about his country and news from the outside world will inevitably flow in and out of North Korea through foreign visitors.

In recent months, foreign tourists who have visited North Korea reported asking the country's tour guides about the deployment of North Korean troops to Russia's war against Ukraine—something the government had not made public until April. North Korea briefly stopped receiving foreign tourists this year after social media influencers posted videos of their trips to North Korea with unflattering comments.

The biggest potential source of tourist cash for North Korea is China. In 2019, the year before North Korea shut its borders to keep the pandemic out, it attracted a record 300,000 foreign tourists, most of them from China.

The New York Times

Crimes of passion or cold-blooded murder?

A M PRASAD

In recent weeks, India has been shaken by the horrors of deeply disturbing murder cases that go beyond individual tragedies, pointing to a deeper malaise. The first one was the reported murder (April 20, 2025) of Omprakash, a retired DGP, allegedly by his wife, Pallavi, at their home. The brutality of the attack left him with numerous stab injuries, causing him to bleed to death.

Barely a month later, a second case emerged. Raja, on his honeymoon with wife Sonam in Sohra (Cherrapunji), Meghalaya, went missing on May 23, 2025. His decomposed body was discovered in a deep gorge near a waterfall on June 2, bearing brutal wounds inflicted by a sharp object. On June 9, his wife, Sonam, surrendered to the police in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh. So far, five individuals, including Sonam and her alleged boyfriend, Raj Kushwaha (20 years), have been arrested.

These incidents raise a disturbing question: why do couples choose a path of malice, vengeance and retribution when there are easier ways to end a relationship?

From a legal perspective, we seek to examine whether all killings involving the murder of a spouse are crimes of passion and, therefore, should be considered under exceptions that reduce punishment. A crime of passion refers to a violent crime, particularly homicide, committed under intense emotions such as anger, jealousy or heartbreak, rather than as a premeditated murder. It is a defence used to reduce the severity of a charge, like from murder to culpable homicide, because the offender acted in the heat of passion. The offender's emotional state becomes so disturbed that he/she temporarily loses the ability to think rationally. Thus, defence in a crime of passion can lead to mitigation but not exculpation in the framing of the charge. Over years, jurists and legal practitioners have relied upon the M'Naghten Rule to decide a criminal defendant's mental state. The test focuses on whether a criminal defendant knew the nature of the crime and whether they understood right from wrong at the time the offence was committed.

In several judicial pronouncements, the crucial point for ascertaining the state of mind of the accused is the time when the offence was committed (*Dayabhai vs State*). The Court held that if the words and actions of the accused clearly demonstrate that he is quite capable of understanding the nature of his activities during the commission of the crime, he cannot take the plea of insanity (*S K Nair vs State*). In another verdict, the Court ruled that once a person is suffering from a mental disorder or mental deficiency, which takes within its ambit hallucinations, dementia, loss of memory and self-control, at all relevant times by way of all documentary/oral evidence, the person concerned would be entitled to seek resort to the general exceptions from criminal liability (*State of Rajasthan vs Shera Ram*). The Supreme Court examined whether the act was right or wrong in the context of exceptions (Ss.84 IPC/SS.22 BNS) and concluded that certain unusual acts committed in the past or that he was liable to recurring fits of insanity or that he was subject to getting epileptic fits but there was nothing abnormal in his behaviour, or his behaviour was queer, cannot be sufficient to attract this section (*Bapu vs State of Rajasthan*). The Appellant has been able to create sufficient doubt that he is entitled to the benefit of exception (Ss.84 IPC/SS.22 BNS) because of the preponderance of his medical condition at the time of occurrence, as revealed from the material and evidence on record. The prosecution cannot be said to have established its case beyond all reasonable doubt. The appellant is therefore entitled to the benefit of doubt and consequential acquittal (*Devidas Loka Rathod vs State of Maharashtra*).

The factor which distinguishes culpable homicide from murder is the presence of strong *mens rea*, which consists of mental attitudes. The Supreme Court rightly observed that unless such a mental attitude is attributable to the act constituting the offence, it is not murder (*Rajwant vs State*). The question of whether the accused had the requisite knowledge or his act was likely to cause death, as in the case of intention, is a question of fact depending on the circumstances of each particular case, i.e., the weapon used, the part of the body where injuries were inflicted, the number of injuries caused, the deliberateness of the act committed, etc. (*Mausumshau vs State*). Therefore, the fact that a person was conscious of the act being unlawful, a clear *mens rea* or criminal intent, is discernible. The conduct before and after the incidents becomes the determining factor in ascribing the motive. The burden of proof lies on the accused when claiming applicability of exceptions (*T N Lakshmaiah vs State*).

(The writer is a retired DGP)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 1975

Shanti Bhushan attacks 39th Amendment

New Delhi, August 25
Counsel for Mr. Raj Narain, M.P., argued in the Supreme Court today that the recent monsoon session of Parliament was not a valid session, held as it was "after unconstitutionally detaining" some Members of Parliament. Hence, Mr. Shanti Bhushan submitted while arguing for the respondents in the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi's election appeal, that the Constitution (39th Amendment) Act, which was passed in that Parliament session, was not legal.

25 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 2000

State, TN to set up Rs 10-cr fund for STF 'victims'

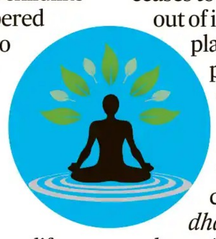
Bangalore, Aug 25
The Karnataka and Tamil Nadu governments have decided to jointly establish a fund with a corpus of Rs 10 crore to pay compensation to the victims (and their dependents) of the atrocities committed by the Special Task Force (STF). The National Human Rights Commission constituted a panel comprising Mr Justice A J Sadashiva and Mr Narasimhan, a retired IPS officer of Tamil Nadu following complaints against the STF personnel of harassment during the combing operation against Veerappan.

OASIS | NANDKISHORE

Becoming capable of designing destiny

Most intelligent minds agree that imagination is superior to intelligence. However, there lies a profound truth in spiritual wisdom that human destiny transcends human imagination. Before attaining liberation, our vision remains narrow, our capacity to shape destiny falters. We wander in the shadows of our own limitations, unaware that true agency emerges only when the shackles of self-ignorance are broken.

To preach that everyone can design their destiny under the slogan of freedom of expression is like handing a loaded gun to a child, well-intentioned perhaps, but perilous. Without maturity and discernment, our designs can ignite chaos rather than create harmony. In spiritual terms, the childlike ego, brimming with untempered desires, distorts freedom into delusion. Only through liberation(*moksha*), spiritual awakening (*jeevanmukti*) does one enter the realm of wisdom. When ignorance dissolves, the Self merges with the supreme and, the realised (*jeevanmukta*) sees no difference between *Atman* and *Brahman*. In that state, the subtle instruments of intelligence, mind, life, and body become vehicles of divine expression rather than tools of bondage.



From this elevated vantage, destiny ceases to be a construct of whims born out of imagination. Instead, one plans wisely, aligned with divine purpose. It's not about whimsically remaking fate. It's about shaping one's current life span, moment by moment, with disciplined intention and common sense, integrating *dharma* (duty), *artha* (means), *kama* (desire), and ultimately *moksha* (liberation). Thus, freedom of expression, prior to liberation, risks giving the untrained mind too much rope. In contrast, liberation equips one with clarity, perspective, and compassion, forgiveness, and love. Only then does the soul possess the discernment needed to plan life's course in harmony with timeless wisdom.

In practical terms, we may not yet design destiny, but we can structure our present life with thoughtfulness: daily routine, mindful speech, service, and ethical living. These form the groundwork upon which true spiritual freedom and the capacity to responsibly engage with destiny may eventually rest. In awakening lies the freedom worth having. Without it, designing destiny is a gamble while with it, destiny unfolds as a treasured craft.

SC flags HC verdict delays beyond 3 months; sets terms for speedy trials

Expresses shock over high court not delivering judgment for over a year

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday deprecated high courts not delivering judgments for about a year after reserving the matter for it, and some HCs pronouncing the final order without a reasoned judgment.

Expressing shock and surprise over the Allahabad High Court not delivering judgment even after reserving it a year ago, a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra said such practices made litigants lose faith in the judicial process.

Reiterating the principles laid down by this court in Anil Rai Vs State of Bihar (2001), the court directed the registrar general of each HC to furnish to the Chief Justice of the HC a list of cases where the judgment reserved was not pronounced within the remaining period of that month, repeating it for three months.

"If the judgment is not delivered within three months, the registrar general shall place the matters before the Chief Justice for orders, and the Chief Justice shall bring it to the notice of the concerned bench for pronouncing the order within two weeks thereafter, failing which the matter shall be assigned to another bench," said the court.

The court said some HCs had adopted the practice of pronouncing the final order without a reasoned judgment, which was not delivered for a substantial length of time, depriving the aggrieved party of the opportunity to seek further judicial redress.

On a plea filed by Ravindra Pratap Shahi, the bench said: "It is extremely shocking and surprising that the judgment was not delivered for almost a year from the date when the appeal was heard."

The bench said the apex court was repeatedly confronted with similar matters wherein proceedings were kept pending in the HC for more than three months — in some cases for more than six months or even years — wherein judgments were not delivered after hearing the matter.

"In most HCs, there is no mechanism where the litigant can approach the concerned bench or the Chief Justice, bringing to its notice the delay in delivery of judgment. In such a situation, the litigant loses his faith in the judicial process, defeating the ends of justice," said the bench.

In the present case, the court sought a report from the Allahabad HC registrar general, which supported the averments that the criminal appeal pending before the HC was heard and reserved for orders on December 24, 2021, but the judgment was not delivered, and it was directed to be relisted before the regular bench.

NEW GUIDELINES

- **Time limit for judgments:** If a judgment is not delivered within three months of being reserved, the Registrar General must place the matter before the Chief Justice.
- **Action on delay:** The Chief Justice must alert the concerned bench and ensure the judgment is pronounced within two weeks, failing which the case should be reassigned to another bench.
- **Monthly monitoring:** Each high court's Registrar General must furnish a monthly list of cases with reserved judgments to the Chief Justice, continuing this process for three months.

SC bins plea to gag unverified statements on Nimisha Priya

NEW DELH, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to consider a plea to restrain those making "unverified public statements" about the case of murder-accused Indian nurse Nimisha Priya, whose death penalty in Yemen has been suspended for now.

A bench noted an assurance from Attorney-General R Venkataramani that only the government — and no one else — would speak on the matter.

"What do you want? Do you want nobody to come out and say anything to the media? The attorney-general has said that the Indian government will ensure nobody briefs the media. What else you want?" the bench told petitioner K A Paul.

Venkataramani said it was a "very sensitive matter", and that he would ensure no media briefing took place till it was concluded. On his submission, the court dismissed the matter as withdrawn.

Paul said Priya had sought legal intervention to enforce a complete media gag order in the case. He said delicate negotiations were underway at present, and some individuals were making false statements.

Now, Uddhav boycotts JPC on bills to sack jailed ministers

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday joined Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, and AAP in boycotting the Joint Committee of Parliament examining the three Bills seeking removal of top political executives if in custody for 30 days, calling it a "mere stunt".

The Shiv Sena (UBT)'s decision was announced by its Rajya Sabha floor leader Sanjay Raut, as pressure mounted on the Congress, which has so far not officially announced whether it would join the JPC or not. A senior Congress leader said a final decision is awaited even as the party leadership appeared inclined to join the multi-party panel.

The Modi government is "pushing" the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, to "bulldoze democracy and the people's elected government." The JPC formed to review this bill is a mere stunt. Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray clarifies that Shiv Sena will not participate in such a JPC," he said with the hashtag "Democracy Under Threat".

The four parties coming together on the JPC issue are seen as an attempt to send a signal to the Congress, the leader of the I.N.D.I.A bloc.

Panels set up for Sardar Patel, Vajpayee & Birsa Munda birthdays

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central government has set up three high-level committees for the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversaries of Sardar Patel and Birsa Munda, and the centennial birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair each committee, which has several chief ministers and Union ministers as members. The Union Ministry of Culture announced the three committees in gazette notifications issued on Monday.

The committee for Patel's and Vajpayee's birth anniversaries have 124 members, the one for Birsa Munda has 118 members.

Their mandate will be to approve policies, plans, and programmes, supervise and guide the commemorations, and decide on the broad dates for the detailed programmes of celebration.

Their members include but are not limited to former presidents Pratibha Patil and Ramnath Kovind, top lawmakers, Cabinet ministers, chief ministers, including those from Opposition-ruled states, and Governors and L-Gs.

Kejriwal questions BJP over bills on jailed leaders

AAP targets BJP for inducting 'tainted' politicians

NEW DELHI, DHNS

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Monday mounted an attack on the ruling BJP over the Bills seeking the removal of top political executives at the Centre and states upon their prolonged custody.

He questioned whether a leader who whitewashes cases after inducting corrupt people into their party should resign, and what punishment should be given to those who falsely implicate others in cases.

His remarks came after Home Minister Amit Shah asked how appropriate it is for ministers, Chief Ministers, or the Prime Minister to run the government while sitting in jail when accused of corruption or facing charges carrying a sentence of more than five years.

"Should a person who includes criminals accused of serious crimes in his party, gets their cases dismissed, and makes them ministers, deputy chief ministers, or chief ministers also be required to resign from his position?" Kejriwal said.

"How many years of imprisonment should such a person face? If someone is falsely implicated in a case, sent to jail, and later acquitted, how many years of imprisonment should the minister who falsely implicated him face?" he posted on X.

Kejriwal was apparently referring to allegations that the BJP had inducted leaders whom it had earlier accused of corruption.

On Sunday, AAP Rajya Sabha floor leader Sanjay Singh said, "The relationship between corruption and the BJP is like that of Laila and Majnu or Romeo and Juliet. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP embrace the corrupt. Which party now houses leaders such as Ajit Pawar, Narayan Rane, G Janardhan Reddy, B S Yeddyurappa, Mukul Roy, Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Suvendu Adhikari?"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
AAP National Convener

"If a person includes criminals of serious crimes in their party, clears all their cases and makes them ministers, deputy chief ministers or chief ministers - should such a minister or prime minister also resign from their post?

Oppn to bill due to poll losses: Shah attacks I.N.D.I.A bloc

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday sought to explain the rationale behind the Constitution 130 Amendment Bill, which has provisions to sack people holding high constitutional positions facing extended custody in serious criminal cases, by citing the arrest of former Delhi CM and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal's decision to continue in office despite his arrest in the Delhi liquor scam.

Indicating that the BJP will make I.N.D.I.A bloc's opposition to the bill an issue in poll-bound Bihar, Shah, in an interview with a news agency, referred to the 2013 incident when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tore a copy of an ordinance brought to give reprieve to RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, convicted of fodder scam.

Shah further pinned the I.N.D.I.A bloc's opposition to the bill on the "three consecutive election losses in the Lok Sabha polls" faced by the Congress-led Opposition. Shah also said that Kejriwal's arrest had prompted the proposed law.

"I want to ask the Opposition — can a chief minister, prime minister, or any leader run the country from jail? Does that suit the dignity of our democracy?"

Shah added that when he received a CBI summons in a case, he chose to resign. "I was arrested later. The case went on, and the judgment also came that it was a case of political vendetta, and I am completely innocent. Even then, I did not take an oath and become the home minister again. I did not take the oath for any constitutional post until all charges against me were quashed. What lessons on morality is the Opposition trying to teach me," Shah asked.

STREET FURY

Police personnel detain people as they hold a protest after two children were found dead in a car in Indrapuri area, in Patna, on Monday. At least five police personnel, including a woman constable, were injured after a mob went on the rampage. PTI

Ex-judges slam Shah for remarks on VP candidate

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Standing in support of Justice B Sudershan Reddy, the opposition Vice Presidential candidate, 18 former Supreme Court and HCjudges and two prominent legal experts have criticised Home Minister Amit Shah for 'misrepresenting' the Salwa Judum judgment and warned that such prejudicial action can have a 'chilling effect' on the present judges.

In a statement, they said the campaign for the office of the VP can be conducted civilly and with dignity and criticising the so-called ideology of either candidate should be eschewed, as well as it would be wise to refrain from name-calling.

The statement was signed by seven former SC judges, three former HC judges, eight HC judges and two well-known legal experts. The signatories include Justices AK Patnaik, Gopal Gowda, Kurien Joseph, Madan B Lokur, J Chelameswar, S Muralidhar, K Chandru, Prof Mohan Gopal and Sanjay Hegde.

It came as a response to Shah's remarks in Kochi last Friday, "If the Salwa Judum judgment had not been given, the naxal terrorism would have ended by 2020. He is the person who was inspired by the ideology that gave Salwa Judum judgment."

They said Shah's statement 'publicly misinterpreting' the judgment was unfortunate, as it nowhere supports, either expressly or by compelling implication of its text, naxalism or its ideology.

"While the campaign for the office of the Vice President may well be ideological, it can be conducted civilly and with dignity. Criticising the so-called ideology of either candidate should be eschewed," they said.

Electoral candidates' work, actions will be under scrutiny: BJP

The BJP on Monday defended Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments on the Opposition's vice-presidential candidate, retired Justice Sudershan Reddy.

BJP spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad said retired judges and chief justices who had written a letter on the matter had every right to do so. "He's a retired judge, and we respect all judges. Home Minister Amit Shah spoke on his 2011 judgment on Salwa Judum because it led to difficulties in the fight against Maoism," said Prasad.

"I wish to raise some fundamental issues about Justice Sudershan Reddy, the Opposition's candidate for the V-P elections. When you are standing for elections, your actions and your work will be under question," he added.

Voter data error: Big relief for CSDS chief Sanjay Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the investigations and further proceedings in the FIRs lodged against Sanjay Kumar, co-director of CSDS, an autonomous government-funded research institute, for his post on X related to polling data in Maharashtra.

A bench provided the relief to Kumar on his writ petition, seeking quashing of the FIRs on the ground that those were an abuse of the process of law.

His counsel claimed the petitioner has an impeccable record of 30 years of public service. He is a very respectable person. It was a genuine mistake for which he has apologised publicly.

The FIRs were lodged against Kumar, even though he apologised for his post, which claimed significant voter number discrepancies in the 2024 Maharashtra elections.

He had later deleted the post, referring to data errors. On his writ petition, the court passed the interim order, issuing notice in the matter.

India, Fiji deepen defence & maritime ties

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Fiji's PM Sitiveni Rabuka at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday. REUTERS

India on Monday moved to deepen defence and maritime security cooperation with Fiji, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted his Pacific counterpart Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka.

"We have decided to strengthen our cooperation in defence and security. An action plan has been prepared for this. India will provide cooperation in training and equipment to improve Fiji's maritime security," Modi said after a meeting with Rabuka. "We are also ready to share our experience in cybersecurity and data protection."

The two leaders emphasised the importance of their shared interests in advancing regional peace, stability and prosperity. Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to advancing the priority areas of cooperation outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation signed in 2017, and to supporting Fiji's strategic priorities in these areas.

Rabuka stressed the significance of ensuring the security of Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and welcomed India's assurance to extend assistance to meet its security needs. Rabuka welcomed the planned port call by an Indian naval ship to Fiji, which will enhance maritime cooperation and interoperability, according to a joint statement issued after the meeting.

The two sides signed several pacts, including an MoU for design, construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of a superspeciality hospital in Fiji by India.

"Climate change poses a critical threat to Fiji. In this context, we are working together in the field of renewable energy, particularly solar energy. We stand together in the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuels Alliance," Modi said, adding: "We will also extend our cooperation to strengthen Fiji's disaster response capabilities."

India has decided to send Indian teachers to teach Hindi and Sanskrit at the University of Fiji. Fijian Pandits will come to India for learning and take part in the Gita Mahotsav, the prime minister said.

BMS slams face recognition system for anganwadi staff

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The RSS-affiliated trade union Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh has expressed apprehensions about the Face Recognition System (FRS) introduced by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development for marking the attendance of anganwadi workers, and has demanded that the government withdraw the policy.

In a strongly worded communication, the trade body described the policy as "lopsided" and said it was causing numerous difficulties.

Connectivity issues

The FRS is used under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, requiring anganwadi workers to register their attendance through it. However, workers have been complaining about connectivity issues and other challenges.

"The system has presented numerous difficulties for anganwadi workers nationwide due to several practical problems at the implementation level. It has become another tool for harassing workers by district-level officials. The BMS demanded that the government withdraw this lopsided policy," a communication from BMS read.

The decision was taken by the BMS central executive council at its 159th meeting held from August 22 to 24 in Bhopal.

Implement Wage Code

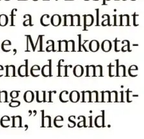
The trade body's decision-making team adopted three resolutions at the meeting. It urged the central government to immediately implement the Wage Code and Social Security Code, and to convene the Indian Labour Conference (ILC), the Labour Ministry's highest tripartite forum, at the earliest.

"The BMS is opposing many clauses that are against workers' interests in the Industrial Relations Code and also the Occupational Safety & Health and Working Conditions Code. Hence, it is opposing these two codes. The BMS requests the Government of India to implement the labour codes in a phased manner, taking the tripartite partners into confidence. There should not be any haste in implementing all four labour codes," it said.

The trade body has also urged the government to convene a meeting of the ILC, which has not been held in over a decade; the last session took place in 2015.

Cong's Kerala MLA facing misconduct row suspended

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Monday suspended MLA Rahul Mamkootathil from the party for six months following a series of allegations of misconduct towards women.



While several party leaders, including women, openly called for Mamkootathil's resignation as Palakkad MLA, the KPCC maintained that there was no justification for demanding his resignation from the post.

While KPCC president Sunny Joseph said that there was no police case or formal complaint against Mamkootathil, and therefore no justification for demanding his resignation, Opposition leader VD Satheesan argued that no other party had taken such a stern stance.

"An accused in a rape case continues to serve as an MLA in the ruling Left Front in Kerala, and a Pocso case accused held a leadership position in the BJP. Despite the absence of a complaint or police case, Mamkootathil was suspended from the party, reflecting our commitment to women," he said.

SCAM SPRINT

TMC MLA scales wall, throws phone before ED arrests him

KOLKATA, DHNS

Trinamool MLA Jiban Krishna Saha ran through his backyard and hopped over a wall when Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials knocked on his door on Monday morning. The 48-year-old threw his phone into a drain before his sprint on the muddy back alley was shortened by a fall.

His neighbours in Andi in Murshidabad saw the TMC leader begging the paramilitary personnel not to hurt him as they helped him get up before the ED officials started questioning him in connection with the teacher recruitment scam.

The marathon questioning went on for almost four hours before he was formally arrested. The ED officials also recovered his phone.

People of his constituency were not surprised by the early morning drama. They had seen Saha making a similar attempt to flee when the officials of the CBI had raided his house on April 17, 2023. He had then thrown his phone into a pond before the CBI officials nabbed him in connection with the same scam.

Saha spent 13 months behind bars before the SC granted him bail.

Apart from the residence of Saha, the ED on Monday also conducted raids in several other places.

The arrest of the 48-year-old TMC legislator once again triggered a war of words between Trinamool and the BJP. "Saha was earlier arrested. But even after keeping him in custody for nearly a year, he got bail as a central probe agency couldn't prove anything. But now ED has arrested him. This only proves that ED is working at the behest of the BJP ahead of the assembly polls," TMC vice president Jaiprakash Majumdar said.

"The TMC has become synonymous with scam. Not just Saha, earlier education minister Partha Chatterjee, MLA Manik Bhattacharya and others have been arrested in connection with the recruitment scam," senior BJP leader Jagganath Chattopadhyay said.

Ladki Bahin: 26L entries under probe as Oppn rips into Maharashtra govt

Raut, Sule flag irregularities in Fadnavis govt's flagship scheme

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

As the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi mounted a fresh offensive against the ruling BJP-led Maha Yuti over irregularities in the Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, equating it with vote theft, the Maharashtra government on Monday said that physical verification of illegal beneficiaries is underway and that they would be removed.

A day after Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that an inquiry is being conducted into over 26 lakh people allegedly claiming the monthly benefits under the scheme, the state's Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkare shared the details on Monday.

"The Information Technology Department had provided preliminary information regarding approximately 26 lakh beneficiaries receiving benefits under the scheme, who do not appear to be eligible as per the scheme's criteria," Tatkare said.

The Women and Child Development Department has provided information about these beneficiaries to the district machinery for scrutiny (physical verification). Accordingly, a detailed scrutiny is underway at the field level, after which the eligibility/ineligibility of these beneficiaries will be clarified," she added.

Appropriate action will be taken with regard to ineligible beneficiaries. At the same time, benefits for those found eligible will continue uninterrupted, Tatkare said.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut and NCP (SP) Working President Supriya Sule slammed the government. "This is nothing but vote chori. You push in illegal beneficiaries to garner votes," Raut said.

Demand for white paper

Sule demanded a white paper on the scheme.

"Nearly 25 lakh names have been struck off the scheme, of which around two lakh are from Pune alone. On what basis were the forms initially accepted, and now, on what criteria have these names been removed," she asked.

She also pointed out that even men had been registered as beneficiaries, questioning the government's verification process. "Was the administration unable to distinguish between male and female applicants? What kind of software was used, and who deployed it? This entire matter warrants a thorough investigation," she added.

SC halts trial proceedings against Ashoka varsity professor

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Monday restrained the trial court from taking cognisance of the chargesheet filed by the Haryana Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) in connection with an FIR against Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad over social media posts related to 'Operation Sindoor'.

A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi also quashed a separate FIR, in which the SIT, constituted by the apex court, had filed a closure report.

The SIT had been tasked with investigating two FIRs registered against Mahmudabad over his contentious posts.

The Special Investigation Team informed the Supreme Court that it had filed a closure report in one of the cases, while in the other, a chargesheet was submitted on August 22 after it found that certain offences had been committed.

The apex court restrained the trial court from framing any charges in the matter.

CPM faces ideological heat for planning Ayyappa conclave

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Even as the CPM government in Kerala is organising the Global Ayyappa conclave with the stated objective of promoting the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple, the move is being widely seen as the Pinarayi Vijayan regime's political ploy .

The CPM seems to be making a bid to plug the flow of its Hindu votes to the BJP, especially since the local-body polls are due in the next few months and the Assembly elections are hardly nine months away. However, political analysts appeared sceptical.

The conclave will be held on the banks of the holy Pamba river on September 20, on the occasion of the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Travancore Devaswom Board, which manages the Ayyappa temple.

The CPM faced severe electoral setbacks following a bid to enforce the Supreme Court order lifting the ban on the entry of women aged 10-50 to the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in 2018-19.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP even made inroads into the CPM's Hindu-Ezhava (OBC) vote bank across the state, opening its account in Kerala for the first time. That is why the CPM's current move is widely being seen as yet another social engineering by the Pinarayi Vijayan government to woo the Hindu community. That is the reason for the BJP and Sangh Parivar outfits to unleash a strong campaign against the event, citing the participation of "atheist" Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and alleging a ploy to hurt Hindu beliefs.

Political analysts pointed out that the CPM's sharp deviations from its secular ideology could have adverse effects.

"It was a deviation from the basic ideologies that proved costly for the CPM in West Bengal. Initiating steps like organising an Ayyappa devotees' conclave may not go down well with the party's hardcore supporters. It is also not clear whether the CPM could influence the Hindu voters with such events," said senior political observer M N Karasserry.

He also pointed out that it was not a secular government's duty to organise gatherings of a particular religion, and that the government should only act as a facilitator for all religions and worship centres.

Collegium recommends Justices Aradhe, Pancholi for SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday recommended the elevation of Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, and Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, as judges of the apex court.

The five-judge Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, adopted the resolution on Monday.

Justice Pancholi is in line to become the Chief Justice of India from 2 October 2031, upon the retirement of Justice Joymalya Bagchi. He will demit office on 27 May 2033.

With their appointments, the SC will attain its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

11 dead, 40 injured as truck rams into tractor-trolley in UP

BULANDSHAHR (UP), PTI: Eleven people, including two minors, were killed and 40 injured when a truck rammed into a tractor-trolley carrying pilgrims in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district in the early hours of Monday, police said.

Among the injured who are hospitalised, 12 are also below the age of 18.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the demise of the pilgrims and announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the kin of those dead and Rs 50,000 each for the injured.

The accident took place around 2.10 am on the Bulandshahr-Aligarh border near the Arnia bypass, when the canter truck hit the tractor-trolley from behind, causing it to overturn, a police officer said.

According to police officials, the trolley of the tractor had been modified into two decks to accommodate the large number of passengers. The use of a tractor-trolley to ferry passengers is officially banned in Uttar Pradesh.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WOW, LISTEN TO SOME OF THESE AWESOME FESTIVALS! THE "WAIKIKI SPAM JAM" AND THE "CHINCHILLA MELON FESTIVAL"!
AND THERE'S A "SACRAMENTO BACON FEST" AND A "TENNESSEE BANANA PUDDING FESTIVAL!!"
I THINK I KNOW HOW WE'RE GONNA SPEND OUR NEXT VACATION!!
HOW ABOUT I MAKE YOU A LATE-NIGHT SNACK AND WE SLEEP ON THAT, HONEY?

Hagar The Horrible

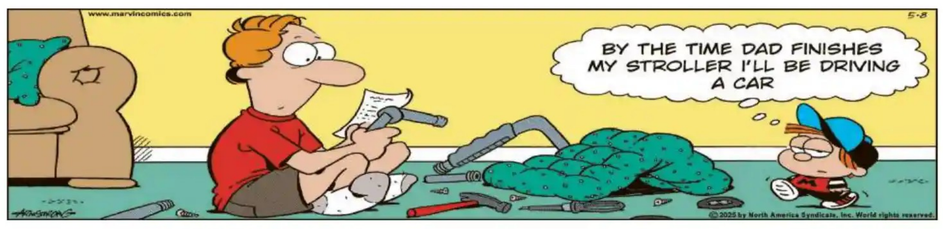
Beetle Bailey

CAN YOU PICK UP SOME GROCERIES ON YOUR WAY HOME?
UGH, IF I HAVE TO
ACTUALLY, I'LL ORDER FROM "FRESH DIRECT." THEIR DELIVERYMAN IS REALLY CUTE
GREG + MORT WALKER

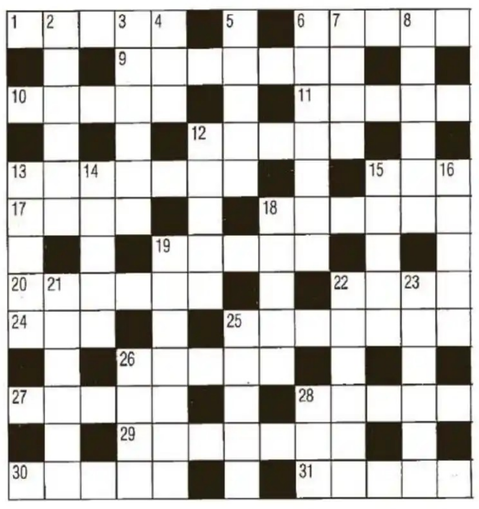
Peanuts

SO IT'S RAINING A LITTLE
A LITTLE RAIN NEVER HURT ANYBODY
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO IF A BALL HAPPENS TO COME YOUR WAY?
IF IT HAPPENS, IT HAPPENS

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12233



ACROSS
1 Drinking tube (5)
6 Major artery (5)
9 Rifle (7)
10 Decorate (5)
11 Long seat (5)
12 Tree sap (5)
13 Outer planet (7)
15 Boy's name (3)
17 Among (4)
18 Former monetary unit (6)
19 Dynast (5)
20 Cutlery items (6)
22 Untidy state (4)
24 Prosecute (3)
25 Before (5,2)
26 Cuts into cubes (5)
27 Approximately (5)
28 Note value (5)
29 Sore (7)
30 Inhumane (5)
31 Hereditary units (5)

DOWN
2 Boredom (6)
3 Frightened (6)
4 Be victorious (3)
5 At no time (5)
6 Referee (7)
7 Portent (4)
8 Fare receipt (6)
12 Picture puzzle (5)
13 Court cards (5)
14 Type of fairy (5)
15 Prise (5)
16 Authoritative decision (3-2)
18 Lords (5)
19 Musical performance (7)
21 Add up to (6)
22 Movable (6)
23 Conflict (6)
25 Coin of low value (5)
26 Hoodwink (4)
28 Drinking vessel (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Can make toast with no hands! (5)
6 On which bums can be said to mean success in the theatre (5)
9 Tough as anything in heartless duty (7)
10 Where to keep the manual (5)
11 Spare change, one gathers (5)
12 Dogs used by Speke? (5)
13 Wouldn't accept being employed by the person referred to (7)
15 The sound of music (3)
17 In the highest position at work (4)
18 Silly capers can get you in a jam (6)
19 Worker making a hit with the sergeant major (5)
20 The attractions of church members (6)
22 Prima donna who may turn greedy (4)
24 There's a market for it in a London street (3)
25 Flier with a big bill for fish (7)
26 One of the watch parts possibly? (5)
27 There's big heart in her backhand (5)
28 Possible pointer as to how to work on a plot (5)
29 Flower associated with the violet (7)
30 Loud cry singularly like skoal (5)
31 The spirit moves them to take safety first (5)

DOWN
2 A timely service! (3,3)
3 Makes sense to the mathematician (4,2)
4 To the Yankee, it's not the real thing (3)
5 Looked for gold, perhaps, around mid-September (5)
6 Lengthen a sentence (7)
7 All these are intensely interested! (4)
8 Excellent bet for the boss position (6)
12 In the pools, they can be hairy (5)
13 Whence the cowboys rushed to church? (5)
14 Sally's first attempt (5)
15 Fear terrible pain, chicken-hearted (5)
16 Nutty writer about a Manx cat (5)
18 Such prices are apt to rise sharply (5)
19 Hide the snuff? (7)
21 His French friends are in hotels (6)
22 To dive in splashily is lovely! (6)
23 Disappear in vain, on the quiet? (6)
25 Gathering in the garden, perhaps (5)
26 Possessing the wisdom of the ages? (4)
28 A water blockage (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12232

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, Float 8, Dumas 10, Creel 11, G-as 12, Pinto 13, Jackson 15, It-'em-s 18, E'er 19, Post-a-l 21, Ste-tso-n 22, Opus 23, Fee-L 24, So-under 26, Sta-men 29,Tea 31, Error 32, Pens-ion 34, Diver 35,TA-X 36, Medea 37, Renew 38, Lla-MA.
DOWN: 1, Su-gar 2, Baskets 4, Lain 5, Act-I-on 6,T-rot-s 7, Gem- MA 9, Mac 12, Po-R-tion 14, See 16, Ether 17, Slily 19, Pointer 20, M-O-use 21, Sugar 23, F-east-ed 24, Serial 25, Den 27,Trier 28, Model 30, F-ox-ed 32, Perm 33, Ian.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Lands 8, Bands 10, Easel 11,Tom 12, Coast 13, Horizon 15, Relic 18, Rim 19, Resume 21, Nappies 22, Sail 23, Vase 24, Prosper 26, Adhere 29, Out 31, Metro 32, Antenna 34, Opals 35, Rut 36, Pride 37, Rates 38, Elbow.
DOWN: 1, Baton 2, Admiral 4, Anon 5, Des res 6, Sates 7, Denim 9, Nor 12, Compare 14, Zip 16, Lunar 17, Cedes 19, Reasons 20, Islam 21, Night 23, Veteran 24, Propel 25, Put 27, Decry 28, Erode 30, Inter 32, Also 33, Nut.

◆SU-DO-KU-6685◆

		5			4		7	
1					2	6		5
	3			5			2	1
					6		1	
		2				5		
	1		2					
3	8			2			6	
9		1	3					8
	5		9			4		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6684

1	7	3	4	9	5	8	2	6
6	4	5	3	8	2	1	9	7
9	2	8	6	1	7	4	3	5
3	9	1	2	7	4	5	6	8
8	5	2	1	6	9	7	4	3
7	6	4	5	3	8	9	1	2
5	1	9	8	2	3	6	7	4
4	3	6	7	5	1	2	8	9
2	8	7	9	4	6	3	5	1

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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X8 A1 E1 C3 I1 K5 P3 — Triple Word Score — RACK 1
O1 U1 N1 P3 T1 S1 S1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 2
O1 E1 Y4 G2 O1 L1 U1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 3
V4 P3 K5 E1 O1 R1 O1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 210-220
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

A1 S1 S1 I1 G2 N1
S1 C3 I1 E1 N1 C3 E1
B3 O1 C3 K5 S1
V4 I1 A1 N1 D2 S1

RACK 1 = 11
RACK 2 = 64
RACK 3 = 39
RACK 4 = 10
JUDD'S TOTAL 124

PAR SCORE 75-85

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NIRGB
WYNSO
DIUQIL
RUUSEN

I don't even recognize this place, Monique!
Wait until you see the rooms.
The details are brilliant!
WHEN IT COMES TO CREATING UNIQUE LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS, SHE'S ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " ○○○○ - ○○○○○○ "
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FROZE BUNNY STUDIO CUDDLE
Answer: The pirate's allegation that his men weren't searching hard enough was — UNFOUNDED

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HITORI-3139

2	7	3	6	4	6	6	1
7	8	6	6	3	4	2	5
3	6	5	6	6	1	2	4
4	6	2	7	1	2	5	2
6	3	6	2	8	6	6	7
5	1	6	8	6	7	4	3
2	4	6	1	7	8	2	6
6	7	4	3	6	5	8	6

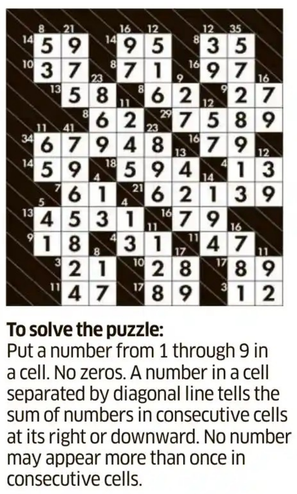
SOLUTION TO 3138

2	5	1	■	8	4	■	7
■	3	■	6	■	1	2	4
6	8	4	7	3	5	■	1
5	1	7	■	4	■	3	6
7	■	3	2	■	6	■	8
■	2	■	8	5	3	1	■
3	7	8	1	■	2	4	5
8	4	■	3	1	■	5	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3139

SOLUTION TO 3138



To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3658

■						6		8
	9						■	1
6		■		2		9		
	4		3		■			2
	3			■	8			
			4	5	2	8	3	
		■			6	■		
	5						■	
■	7					5	2	■

SOLUTION TO 3657

7	4	8	9	5	3	6	2	1
3	1	2	4	6	8	9	7	5
5	6	9	7	2	1	3	4	8
8	9	6	5	3	2	4	1	7
4	2	7	1	8	9	5	6	3
1	3	5	6	7	4	8	9	2
6	7	4	3	1	5	2	8	9
2	5	1	8	9	6	7	3	4
9	8	3	2	4	7	1	5	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

HC quashes CIC order on Modi's degree details

'Academic records of public officials protected under RTI'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Delhi High Court on Monday set aside the Central Information Commission's (CIC) directive to disclose the educational degrees of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Union minister Smriti Irani under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

A single-judge bench led by Justice Sachin Datta held that marksheets, results, degree certificates and academic records of any individual, even those holding public office, constitute personal information and are exempt from disclosure under the RTI Act.

Narendra Modi

The court found no implicit public interest in the disclosure and said that merely holding public office does not make all personal information subject to public scrutiny.

Allowing an appeal by Delhi University and others, the court observed that Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act exempts from disclosure any personal information that is unrelated to public activity or interest, or whose disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy.

In its 175-page judgment, the court emphasised the distinction between "something which is of interest to the public" and "something which is in the public interest".

Justice Datta, who reserved the verdict on the matter on February 27, was acting on Delhi University's plea challenging the CIC order.

Following an RTI application, the CIC on December 21, 2016, allowed inspection of records of all students who cleared the BA exam in 1978 — the year Modi also passed it. The high court, however, stayed the CIC order on January 23, 2017.

The court cited a previous SC judgment which held that while the public may be curious about private matters, such interest does not necessarily equate to public interest, and cannot impinge upon the exemption provided by the RTI Act.

The court also noted that the fact that the information pertains to a public figure does not nullify their right to privacy or confidentiality over personal data that is unrelated to public duties.

"This court cannot be oblivious to the reality that what may superficially appear to be an innocuous or isolated disclosure could open the floodgates of indiscriminate demands, motivated by idle curiosity or sensationalism, rather than any objective 'public interest' consideration," the bench said.

IAF bids farewell to MiG-21, Air Chief Marshal takes final sorties

The last two squadrons will retire on Sept 26 in Chandigarh

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A month before it flies into the sunset, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, for the last time, has flown the legendary MiG-21 that served the Indian Air Force for six decades and played a key role in India's most emphatic war victory in 1971.

The Chief of the Air Staff visited Nal Air Force Base in Rajasthan last week and flew an aircraft from 23 Squadron, the last squadron operating the Russian-origin fighter jets.

The last two squadrons will retire on Sept 26 at a ceremonial event planned in Chandigarh.

Air Chief Marshal Singh flew a fighter sortie and also in a formation led by woman combat pilot Squadron Leader Priya, symbolising both tradition and transformation, an IAF official said, releasing the photos and videos here on Monday.

"My first experience was in 1985; I went to Tezpur, and we flew the Type 77, one of the MiG-21 types. After flying the Kirans, it was a revelation that an aircraft could feel like this. It's an amazing aircraft to fly, very agile, very manoeuverable and has a very simple design," he said.

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh inspects a MiG-21 aircraft after a sortie, at the Nal Air Force Station, in Bikaner. PTI

The IAF Chief said flying a MiG-21 required some kind of initial training to get used to it, and at maximum reheat, it could climb more than 200-250 metres per second.

In the absence of an advanced jet trainer, IAF pilots trained in Kiran aircraft for years were asked to fly the mighty jet with a landing speed of more than 300 km per hour.

Such a gap in training norms, according to experts, is one of the principal reasons for the high accident rate of the MiG-21, because of which the aircraft got the monikers of "flying coffin" and "widow-maker."

"It is one aircraft that is going to be missed by people who have flown it. But we have to move on, as the technology is old and it's very difficult to maintain. We've decided to call it a day for this aircraft," he said.

The MiG-21 was inducted into the IAF in 1963, and the first unit, 28 Squadron, was raised in Chandigarh. With the MiG-21 being the first supersonic aircraft, the squadron was called the First Supersonic.

The aircraft had a limited role in the 1965 war but was in full action in the 1971 campaign when MiG-21s were operationally deployed in all squadrons.

The most important strike was on the Governor's residence in Dhaka—then in East Pakistan—on December 14.

A day later the Governor resigned and on December 16, Pakistan surrendered with 93,000 soldiers laying down their arms.

"MiG-21 has a history of shooting down all generations of aircraft. And the last one was the F-16 (Balakot air strike), which was shot down. It had also shot down, in the 1971 war, the F-104s. The way IAF has utilised the MiG-21 operationally, none of the air forces in the world have," said Wing Commander Jaideep Singh, IAF spokesperson and a MiG-21 pilot.

Supreme Court sets up SIT to examine operations of Vantara

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the setting up of a special investigation team (SIT) led by former top court judge, Justice J Chelameswar, for an independent factual appraisal of the allegations, including violation of rules in the procurement of animals for Anant Ambani's Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre – Vantara, Jamnagar, Gujarat.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Prasanna B Varale clarified that the SIT has been permitted only to assist the court as a fact-finding inquiry to ascertain the true factual position and to enable the court to pass any further order.

The court's order came on PILs filed by advocate C R Jaya Sukin and another. The court asked the SIT to conduct the fact-finding inquiry entrusted to it forthwith and submit the report, uninfluenced by any observations, by September 12, 2025.

Vantara elephant camp

The SIT would be led by Justice Chelameswar as chairman and Justice Raghavendra Chauhan, former Chief Justice of Uttarakhand and Telangana High Court, Hemant Nagrale, IPS, and former Commissioner of Police, Mumbai and Anish Gupta, IRS, Addl Commissioner Customs, as members.

The petitioners made allegations of unlawful acquisition of animals from India and abroad, mistreatment of the animals, financial irregularities, money laundering, etc. They also cast aspersions upon statutory authorities such as the Central Zoo Authority, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as well as courts.

The court noted these petitions are only allegations with no material of probative worth.

"There appears to be no supporting material. Considering the sweep of the allegations made in the petitions, inviting a counter from the private respondent or any other party will not serve much purpose. Ordinarily, a petition resting on such unsupported allegations does not deserve in law to be entertained, rather warrants dismissal in limine," the bench said.

However, the bench said, in the wake of the allegations that the statutory authorities or the courts are either unwilling or incapable of discharging their mandate, more particularly in the absence of verification of correctness of the factual situation, "we consider it appropriate in the ends of justice to call for an independent factual appraisal which may establish the violation, as alleged, if any."

The bench directed the SIT to examine and submit report on acquisition of animals from India and abroad, particularly elephants; compliance of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and rules for zoos made thereunder; International Convention on Trade of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) and compliance with import/export laws and other statutory requirements concerning imports/exports of live animals; compliance with standards of animal husbandry, veterinary care, standards of animal welfare, mortalities and causes thereof.

It also asked the SIT to look into complaints regarding climatic conditions and allegations concerning location near an industrial zone; complaints regarding creation of a vanity or private collection, breeding, conservation programmes, etc.

Article 32 can be used to reopen death penalty sentencing: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has said a person on death row cannot be deprived of the fundamental rights to equal treatment, individualised sentencing, and fair procedure that Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution secure to every person.

A three-judge bench presided over by Justice Vikram Nath said that Article 32 of the Constitution empowered the court to reopen sentencing in cases of capital punishment on grounds of breach of procedural safeguards.

The court decided to rehear a plea filed by Vasant Sampat Dupare from Nagpur, convicted of raping and killing a four-year-old in April 2008. His review petition against the November 26, 2014, verdict was dismissed by the apex court on May 3, 2017.

He filed mercy petitions before the Maharashtra governor and the president, which were rejected in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

The bench, also comprising justices Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta, decided to hear again a death row convict, Dupare's plea, while allowing his plea filed under Article 32 of the Constitution.

The court also referred to the 2022 verdict in the case of Manoj Vs Madhya Pradesh.

The bench said it had issued several guidelines and mandated the trial courts to collect the accused's psychiatric and psychological evaluation report before awarding death.

"This corrective power is invoked precisely to compel rigorous application of the safeguards laid down..... thereby ensuring that the condemned person is not deprived of the fundamental rights to equal treatment, individualised sentencing, and fair procedure that Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution secure to every person," the bench said.

However, the court clarified that the exceptional scope of Article 32 cannot be permitted to become a routine pathway for reopening concluded matters.

US backs ambassador to France in antisemitism row

PARIS, AFP: A diplomatic row between the United States and France escalated on Monday when Washington decided to stand behind its ambassador's criticism of the French response to a rising tide of antisemitism.

US ambassador Charles Kushner, the father of US President Donald Trump's son-in-law, was ordered to report to the French foreign ministry on Monday.

The row erupted amid concerns about an increase in antisemitic acts and hate crimes in France. Kushner, in a public letter to French President Emmanuel Macron, has accused France of a "lack of sufficient action".

France retorted that "the allegations from the ambassador are unacceptable".

"We stand by his comments," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said. In July, Macron said France would formally recognise a Palestinian state during a UN meeting in September, sparking irritation in Israel and the US. Kushner wrote to Macron that such gestures "embolden extremists, fuel violence, and endanger Jewish life in France".

5 journalists among 20 killed in Israeli strikes on hospital

Media groups mourn slain reporters as UN, rights bodies condemn attack

GAZA CITY, AFP

Gaza's civil defence agency said five journalists were among at least 20 people killed Monday when Israeli strikes hit a hospital in the south, with Reuters, the Associated Press and Al Jazeera mourning their slain contributors.

Palestinian medics bring an injured man at Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip, following Israeli strikes on Monday. AFP

The ongoing war in Gaza has been one of the deadliest for journalists, with around 200 media workers killed over the course of the nearly two-year Israeli assault, according to media watchdogs.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said "the toll so far is 20 martyrs, including five journalists and one member of the civil defence", after strikes hit Khan Yunis's Nasser Hospital -- a large medical complex that has been targeted several times by Israel since the start of the war.

In a statement, the Israeli military said its troops on Monday "carried out a strike in the area of Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis".

"The Chief of the General Staff instructed to conduct an initial inquiry as soon as possible," it said, adding it "regrets any harm to uninvolved individuals and does not target journalists as such". Reuters reported that video journalist Hussam al-Masri -- a contractor who was working for the agency -- was operating a live feed at the hospital, "which suddenly shut down at the moment of the initial strike". A Reuters spokesperson said the agency was "devastated" to learn of Masri's death".

A spokesperson for Qatar-based TV network Al Jazeera said that one of its photojournalists and cameramen, Mohammad Salama, was also killed in the attack.

The strike was lambasted by a range of voices, including the UN, media outlets, rights groups and the Israel-based Foreign Press Association.

"The Secretary-General recalls that civilians, including medical personnel and journalists, must be respected and protected at all times," UN Secretary-General spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said.

Musk's xAI sues Apple, OpenAI; alleges antitrust violations

WASHINGTON, AFP: Elon Musk's companies xAI and X filed a sweeping US antitrust lawsuit on Monday against Apple and OpenAI, alleging the tech giants formed an illegal partnership to stifle competition in artificial intelligence and smartphone markets.

The 61-page complaint, filed in federal court in Texas, accuses Apple and OpenAI of entering an exclusive deal that makes OpenAI's ChatGPT the only generative AI chatbot integrated into Apple's iPhone operating system, while blocking rivals like xAI's Grok.

"This is a tale of two monopolists joining forces to ensure their continued dominance in a world rapidly driven by the most powerful technology humanity has ever created: artificial intelligence," the lawsuit states.

The plaintiffs claim Apple holds 65% of the US smartphone market, while OpenAI controls 80% of the AI market through ChatGPT. Apple and OpenAI announced their partnership in June 2024, making ChatGPT the exclusive AI assistant through Apple's Siri.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

The hyperrealistic reconstruction of human ancestor Australopithecus afarensis 'Lucy' (right), and 'Selam' (left), a baby Australopithecus who lived about 100,000 years earlier than Lucy, are on display at the Czech National Museum in Prague on Monday. AFP

Vietnam evacuates thousands as typhoon Kajiki nears landfall

▶ Vietnam has evacuated hundreds of thousands of people and closed schools and airports as it braces for Typhoon Kajiki, its strongest storm of the year so far, AP/PTI reports from Hanoi (Vietnam).

Forecasters said the typhoon had winds of up to 166 kilometres per hour at 10 am on Monday but is expected to weaken slightly before making landfall between central Vietnam's Thanh Hoa and Ha Tinh provinces later in the afternoon. The typhoon started as a weak tropical depression on Aug. 22 but grew into a powerful storm in less than two days, matching last year's Typhoon Yagi as one of the region's fastest-growing, according to state media. Its rapid strengthening forced Vietnamese authorities to rush emergency measures as strong winds and heavy rain hit the region. Last year, Typhoon Yagi killed about 300 people and caused $ 3.3 billion in damage. Kajiki has already caused devastation in China, with strong winds and heavy rain whipping Hainan Island and nearby parts of Guangdong province on Sunday.

UK to set up asylum appeals body

▶ A new independent body will be set up to speed up decision-making on asylum appeal cases in the country and tackle a mounting backlog, the UK government has announced, PTI reports from London.

The aim of the move laid out this week will be to overhaul the system to speed up decision-making on whether a refugee has the right to be granted asylum in the United Kingdom. This is aimed at accelerating returns of those not entitled to asylum and ending hotels to house asylum-seekers awaiting a final decision on their appeals, an issue that has attracted large protests and counter-protests.

India alerts Pakistan about potential flood

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has alerted Pakistan—through diplomatic channels—about a "high flood" in the Tawi River on humanitarian grounds, even though the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) remains in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The information was forwarded via the Indian High Commission in Islamabad on Sunday. The decision to share this information was made on humanitarian grounds, said government sources here.

"The IWT is in abeyance, so the information was shared through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)," said a source.

Ideally, such inputs are shared through the Indus water commissioners under the decades-old IWT, which has been in abeyance after a terror attack in Pahalgam, where terrorists targeted tourists, killing 25 Indian nationals and one Nepalese citizen, and leaving several others injured.

Pakistani authorities have since issued warnings based on the information India provided, Pakistani media reported, citing sources.

The World Bank-brokered IWT has governed the use of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan since 1960. India's decision to suspend it followed the killing of 26 people—mostly tourists—in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

Tawi originates from the Kailash Kund glacier (also known as Kali Kund) in Bhaderwah in J&K's Doda district. It enters the Sialkot district of Pakistan's Punjab and joins the Chenab river.

US records first New World screwworm parasite

NEW YORK, AP/PTI: A person who travelled to El Salvador has been diagnosed with New World screwworm — the first reported US case tied to travel to a country with a current outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the diagnosis on August 4. Federal health officials acknowledged the infection in an emailed statement Monday, but did not describe the patient's condition. They collaborated with Maryland health officials, the statement said.

New World screwworm is a fly that lays its eggs in open wounds and body opening such as the eyes, ears, nose or mouth. It primarily affects livestock and is rare in humans. It does not spread from person to person, and poses a very low risk to the public.

The wisdom of doing nothing

Ancient techniques prove that stillness, presence, and purposeful pauses create clarity, balance, and creativity, writes Reji Varghese

We live in an age where busyness is worn like a designer label — the modern measure of worth. "I'm swamped," we say, often with a kind of reluctant pride, as though exhaustion were a merit badge. Results. Execution. Hustle. If you're not rushing, you're falling behind.

Meanwhile, in less frenetic corners of our world, among Laozi's ancient teachings or the gentle rhythms of rural Holland, different voices offer another kind of understanding. They speak of being present rather than being productive, of finding the right pace rather than peak performance. They ask not what you are doing. But what are you not doing?

In ancient China, the idea was called 'wu wei' — effortless action, or action aligned so harmoniously with nature that it feels like no action at all. Sadia Saeed, a psychologist and founder of a counselling firm, says, "Often mistaken as doing nothing, wu wei actually is about doing whatever comes your way. It is about resting when rest comes along and acting when action is needed. In that sense, you are not rejecting the present or rejecting anything life brings to you."

"It seems an easy concept, but it needs practice. The practice of being present and of accepting what is is fundamental. The benefit is that we don't waste our energy in rejection or in fighting against what is happening. Often, what we want to happen dominates what is happening. With wu wei, you practise acceptance. If your task is hard, you accept it, and if it is restful, you accept that too. That keeps life in balance", Sadia adds.

In the Netherlands, niksen, which means "doing nothing" or "idleness", is the practice of engaging in activities without a specific purpose, allowing for relaxation. It's not inactivity, but deliberately doing something that requires minimal effort, letting the mind wander and reset.

Sadia says, "Doing nothing on purpose has two evident benefits, but also a subtle one. The evident benefits are a stress-free environment in which your nervous system can regulate, and the space it creates that is crucial for creativity."

"However, when you know how to be in an unstructured environment by yourself, your friendship with your own self can grow. Your self-awareness develops, and for some sensitive people, it can be the beginning of a fruitful relationship with oneself," she says.

Both wu wei and niksen are radical rejections of the modern cult of doing — and together, they point toward a leadership model that prioritises clarity over chaos, stillness over speed, and intuition over incessant intervention.

Beyond the illusion of busyness

We've mistaken movement for meaning. Avrril Quadros, a multifunctional therapist and life coach, says, "Corporate corridors and social media feeds echo with a shared myth - that to be overwhelmed is to be important. But as studies on burnout, anxiety, and cognitive fatigue mount — particularly among millennial and Gen Z professionals — a quieter truth emerges - busyness is not a badge, it's often a bypass — away from presence, away from purpose."

What wu wei and niksen remind us is that value doesn't always come from speed. Value often arrives in silence — in the pause between meetings, in the view outside a window, in that moment of "doing nothing" when the mind, freed from expectation, stumbles onto real insight.

The paradox of productive indolence

The Dutch psychologist Doreen Dodgen-Magee describes niksen as a kind of mental idling — like a car engine running while parked. Just awareness. The space where the subconscious begins to stretch its legs.

Sandi Mann's research in the UK finds that such intentional idleness — where daydreaming flourishes — enhances problem-solving and creativity. Manfred Kets de Vries, a professor at INSEAD, suggests it improves leadership by restoring clarity. "It takes you out of your mind," he says, "and then you see things clearly after a while."

Similarly, wu wei teaches that wisdom doesn't come from forcing outcomes, but from knowing when to let go. Avril says, "Just as the river bends around rocks without struggle, the wisest leaders move with, not against, the current. They wait. They listen. They let time ripen a situation before stepping in. They act, yes — but never prematurely, never out of anxiety."

The implications for leadership are profound. When executives learn to trust not only their people but the processes unfolding around them, something shifts. Meetings become more about meaning than minutes. Breaks are no longer seen as gaps in productivity, but as wombs from which innovation is born.

The challenge is cultural. In an economy that valorises output, it takes courage to do less. Niksen may be met with suspicion. Wu wei may sound like indifference. But this discomfort is the growing pain of transformation.

Practical stillness in a noisy world

Avril says, "To begin, start small. A five-minute pause between tasks. A walk without a podcast. Look out the window without labelling it 'slacking." Reorganise your workspaces to allow for stillness — a cushion by a sunlit corner, a chair not facing a screen. Give your schedule what it never asks for: breathing room. And most crucially, own your stillness. When asked what you're doing on a break, say it plainly: "Nothing." No qualifiers, no apologies."

Let yourself be bored. Let your thoughts wander. That's where the mind stops reacting and starts integrating. And it's in those integrations — often invisible, unplanned, spontaneous — where strategy is born.

Leadership in the coming decades may not belong to the most aggressive executor or the always-on achiever. It may belong to those who know how to pause. Wu Wei and Niksen offer us more than exotic philosophies. They offer a map — out of burnout, out of freneticism — and back into the quiet intelligence of natural rhythm, back into balance.

Because sometimes, the most powerful thing a leader can do is nothing at all.

Mental health challenges in students

ANITHA RAMACHANDER

In my three decades of experience in higher education, I have seen generations of students walking into classrooms with dreams in their eyes and ambitions in their hearts. However, they also bury deep within their smiles and silence the constant pressure from expectations and challenges, which often lead to mental health issues.

Depression, anxiety and behavioural disorders are the leading causes of illness and disability, followed by suicide, which is the third leading cause of death among those aged 15–29. The consequences of ignoring mental health issues in young adults extend into their adulthood, damaging both physical and psychological health and limiting opportunities for a fulfilling life.

In today's competitive environment, youngsters have better opportunities and instant access to knowledge and global exposure, but also face challenges such as academic pressure, an uncertain future and constant comparison on social media. Young adults are battling:

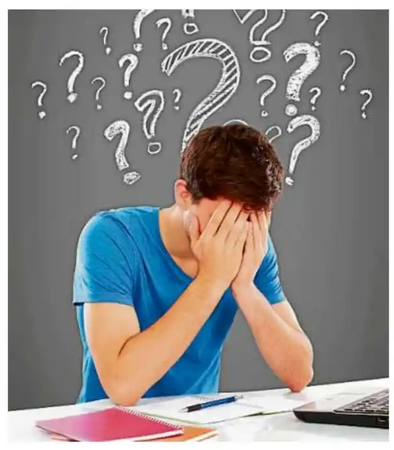
- Performance pressure to excel in grades, secure scholarships, and achieve placements.
- Experiencing an identity crisis while trying to balance personal dreams with the expectations of parental and society.
- Peer pressure can cause lower self-esteem, stress and sometimes destructive behaviour.
- Emotional and social isolation resulting from anxiety and depression.
- Financial pressure for many, worried about education costs and supporting families.
- Unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as withdrawal or denial, often surface when the pressure becomes overwhelming.

Many of these issues develop gradually over time, often manifesting as difficulty focusing, irritability, absenteeism or declining performance. Usually, institutions and faculty only become aware of the problem when it escalates into a crisis. According to the WHO, last year, globally, one in seven 10-19-year-olds experienced a mental disorder, accounting for 15% of the global disease burden in this age group.

Mentors, often faculty members, offer guidance and encouragement. Their support is not clinical but compassionate. Over the years, I have observed that students with empathetic mentors tend to be much more resilient. Sometimes, being heard by someone without judgment is the first step toward healing.

Educational institutions should do more than teach lessons and give exams. They must create environments where young adults feel supported, valued and safe to share their struggles. Some necessary steps include:

- Establish counselling centres staffed with trained professionals. These should not be merely inactive offices created for accreditations, but genuine spaces where students feel welcomed and assured of confidentiality.
- Training faculty to recognise early signs of distress. All teachers should undergo training to understand mental health issues in students. They are the first point of contact to notice behavioural changes. Basic training can help guide students to appropriate support.
- Establishing genuine mentorship programs by pairing students with teachers, alumni or senior students helps create a strong mentoring network that fosters a sense of belonging.
- Including well-being workshops in the curriculum. Topics such as stress management, digital wellness, time management and mindfulness should be taught with the same seriousness as technical subjects.
- Fighting stigma by normalising conversations about mental health. Institutions should organise talks, campaigns and peer support programs that encourage openness. Rethink policies that cause unnecessary stress, whether they involve strict attendance rules or unrealistic deadlines. Compassion is essential in supporting them.



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Human Resources (HR) internship

Podium Systems Private Limited is hiring HR interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of MS-Office and recruitment, and possessing spoken English proficiency, can apply by September 18. The stipend is Rs 2,000-4,000/ month. Apply: https://shorturl.at/bzhDf.

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Chrysalis Services is hiring research and field studies interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research, field work, research, and analytics can apply by September 18. The stipend is Rs 10,000 /month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/HcF3Y.

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How to amplify student voices in schools

Creating meaningful opportunities for students to shape their own education is not just about inviting them to speak. A study led by Professor Dana Mitra of Penn State College of Education shows that it requires a balance of teacher beliefs, relationships and systems—what the research terms cognitive mindsets, emotive heartsets and intention-building skillsets.

Published in Teachers College Record, the study examined how "student voice practices" (SVPs) take root in schools. These include advisory councils, classroom discussions and shared decision-making, which allow students to contribute to school and classroom policies. The researchers found that successful implementation depends on three interconnected elements:

- **Cognitive mindsets:** Teachers believing that students have a right to voice and can provide valuable insights.
- **Emotive heartsets:** Trust-based relationships where students see teachers as allies.
- **Intention-building skillsets:** Training and structures that support both teachers and students in sustaining these practices.

According to Mitra, "Student voice is not a programme or event—it is a culture where students are treated as partners. Teachers need the mindset that students deserve to be heard, the relationships that make them feel safe, and the skills to structure these opportunities."

The study focused on four schools—two high schools and two middle schools—in a large American urban district known for promoting SVPs. While the district had policy-level support, implementation varied. Data was collected through interviews, focus groups and observations in 2022 and 2023. Each high school enrolled about 1,500 students, while the middle schools had 1,000 and 1,500 respectively.

Findings showed a tension between aspirations and ground realities. Safety issues and staff turnover often overshadowed student voice initiatives. Many students said they wished to contribute ideas, but only if they felt physically and emotionally safe. This indicated that the heartset dimension—trust and safety—was often the foundation on which the other two depended. In some schools, frequent fights during lunch hours led administrators to restructure the day into smaller, same-age groups to reduce conflict. In others, staff patrolled corridors and bathrooms to prevent altercations, though this sometimes disrupted student interactions.

Mitra noted that before students can speak up, they must trust the adults. Calm classrooms, where teachers listened and adapted, encouraged student voice, while "wild" classrooms with constant disruption silenced it. Frequent teacher and administrator turnover further disrupted all three dimensions, weakening trust and shifting priorities away from SVPs. However, strong leadership could buffer these disruptions. When school leaders embedded SVPs into vision, budget and daily practice, the initiatives continued despite personnel changes.

The study suggests that districts wanting to expand student voice should first address safety concerns, then build collaboration skills for both teachers and students, and finally create structures such as advisory circles or mentorships. Stable leadership and a clear commitment help sustain the work even during crises such as budget cuts or the COVID-19 pandemic. The research team is also developing tools to measure relational trust, a theme that emerged strongly across schools. As Mitra summarised, SVPs have the potential to improve school climate, strengthen engagement and make learning more relevant—the challenge is creating the conditions where they can thrive, even in difficult contexts.

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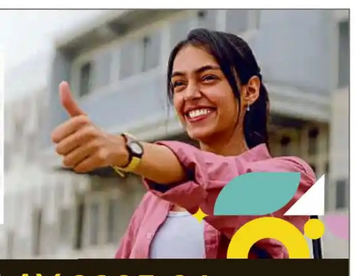

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RBI to support sectors impacted by US tariffs: Governor

'Rupee internationalisation will take decades'

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will take policy measures to support sectors like gems and jewellery, textiles, apparel, shrimps and MSMEs, which are likely to be impacted due to the imposition of high US tariffs, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Monday.

"The government is looking into it. We, on the part of RBI, have been on an easing cycle. We had cut repo rate by 100 bps to provide ample liquidity to the economy," Malhotra said while replying to a question about the government's readiness to help the impacted sectors.

"Whatever support is required from us for the growth of the economy and including those of the sectors which are impacted more, if it so happens, we would not be found wanting in our job," he added while speaking at a banking conference in Mumbai.

US President Donald Trump has announced the imposition of 50% tariffs on Indian goods, including a 25% secondary tariff for India's continued purchase of Russian oil. The secondary tariff is slated to come into force from August 27. Following the announcement about high tariffs by the Trump administration, the relationship between New Delhi and Washington has deteriorated and it has created a high degree of uncertainty among Indian exporters.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra speaking atthe FIBAC banking conference in Mumbai, on Monday. PHOTO:REUTERS

The RBI Governor expressed hope that the ongoing trade negotiations will lead to better results. "We are hopeful that negotiations on tariffs will play out and there will be minimal impact," he added.

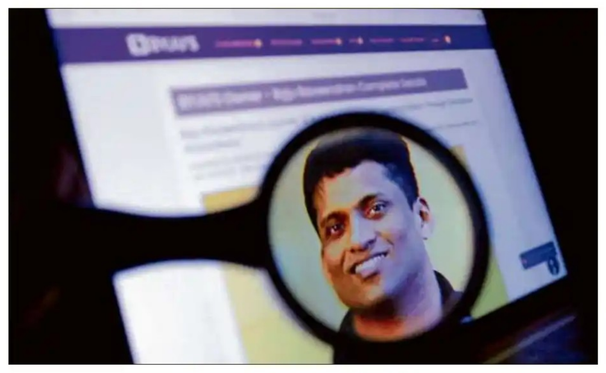
On internationalisation of rupee, Malhotra said it will take decades for international trade to happen in the Indian currency. He stressed that internationalising a currency requires both time and sustained efforts.

"It's an important area on which the RBI has been working for many years and it is important for the country to develop trade in local currency. It cushions us from the volatility of foreign exchange," he said.

In his inaugural address at the FIBAC 2025 conference organised jointly by FICC and Indian Banks' Association, Malhotra said India's external sector has strengthened considerably over the last decade. The current account deficit (CAD) has remained well within the sustainable limit in recent years - it was 0.6% of GDP in 2024-25. This is due to robust services exports and strong remittance receipts despite higher merchandise trade deficit, he said.

Qatar Fund moves Karnataka HC against Byju Raveendran

Seeks an arbitral award of $235 mn plus interest



BENGALURU, DHNS

The Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), through its subsidiary Qatar Holding, on Monday said it has stepped up its legal battle against troubled edtech firm Byju's co-founder Byju Raveendran and his investment vehicle Byju's Investments(BIPL), by moving the Karnataka High Court.

This move is to enforce an arbitral award worth $235 million (about Rs 2,060 crore), plus interest at 4% per annum, compounding daily, accruing from February 28, 2024 to the date of payment – such interest now amounts to over $14 million (about Rs 123 crore), it said in a statement.

The dispute dates back to September 2022, when Qatar Holding extended $150 million in financing to BIPL. The loan was personally guaranteed by Byju Raveendran. The funds were used to part finance the acquisition of 17,891,289 shares in Aakash Educational Services, and there was an express restriction against transferring those shares. In breach of the agreement, the shares were later transferred to another Singapore-based corporate entity controlled by Raveendran, QIA said.

Following repeated defaults, Qatar Holding terminated the financing arrangement and demanded early repayment of $235 million. Both BIPL and Raveendran failed to meet their respective obligations under the contract and the personal guarantee, it added.

In March 2024, Qatar Holding commenced arbitration in Singapore. The Emergency Arbitrator ordered a global freezing order on BIPL's and Raveendran's funds and assets, up to a value of $235 million, in the threat of dissipation of assets. The Singapore High Court subsequently confirmed the award and the global freezing order. On 14 July 2025, the final award was made by the arbitral tribunal to order the payment of $235 million to Qatar Holding immediately, and an interest rate of 4% from February 2024, compounding daily.

On August 12, 2025, Qatar Holding filed an enforcement petition before the Karnataka High Court. QIA's Enforcement action is the newest in a series of increasing global judicial scrutiny on Raveendran.

Japan's UNIQLO eyes Rs 3K cr turnover in 3 years

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Japanese global apparel retailer UNIQLO is eyeing a turnover of Rs 3,000 crore and doubling of its retail network in India over the next three years. For the year ended March 2025, UNIQLO reported a turnover of Rs 1,100 crore and a net profit of Rs 178 crore from its Indian operations.

UNIQLO, a brand owned by Tokyo-headquartered Fast Retailing Co Ltd, entered India in 2019 with its first store in New Delhi. In the last six years, UNIQLO has opened 16 retail stores in India across New Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Maharashtra. It is opening its first store in Bengaluru on August 29 which marks its entry into the south Indian market and one in Pune on September 26.

"Since our entry into India six years ago, we have received good response from our customers. We have also built a strong presence through online sales. We have grown 60% CAGR in six years. Our profit more than doubled with a 15% margin in FY25," Kenji Inoue, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer, UNIQLO India told *DH*.

With an annual growth of 30-40% the company expects to achieve a turnover of Rs 3,000 crore in the next three years, he said.

This growth, he said, will come with the expansion of the retail network in the country. It plans to double its store network in the next three years, Inoue added. He added UNIQLO sources the majority of products from its partners in Vietnam, China, and Bangladesh.

Fitch keeps India ratings unchanged; flags debt, tariff risks

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Credit rating firm Fitch on Monday kept India's sovereign rating unchanged at its lowest investment grade 'BBB-' with a stable outlook citing robust growth and solid external finances.

However, in its report released days after S&P Global upgraded its India sovereign rating for the first time in 18 years, Fitch flagged high debt and risks to the Indian economy from the US tariffs.

Fitch has kept its India rating unchanged at 'BBB-' since 2006. It is one of the three leading global rating agencies. Moody's has retained its 'Baa3' rating on India since June 2020.

The government has been pitching for ratings upgrade citing strong macro-economic fundamentals. After the upgrade by S&P Global hopes were high about the upgrade by Fitch also.

"A strengthening record on delivering growth with macro stability and improving fiscal credibility should drive a steady improvement in its structural metrics, including GDP per capita, and increase the likelihood that debt can trend modestly downward in the medium term," Fitch said.

Still, fiscal metrics are a credit weakness, with high deficits, debt and debt service compared with 'BBB' peers. Lagging structural metrics, including governance indicators and GDP per capita, also constrain the rating, it added.

The rating agency underlined that India's economic outlook remains strong relative to peers, even as momentum has moderated in the past two years.

"We forecast GDP growth of 6.5% in the fiscal year ending March 2026 (FY26), unchanged from FY25, and well above the 'BBB' median of 2.5%," Fitch noted, making a comparison between GDP growth of India with higher rated economies.

While India's domestic demand is likely to remain solid, underpinned by the ongoing public capex drive and steady private consumption, Fitch flagged concern over the sluggish private investments.

There has been a notable slowdown in nominal GDP growth, which we forecast to expand 9% in FY26, from 9.8% in FY25 and 12% in FY24, it said.

On US tariff, Fitch said though the direct impact on GDP will be modest as exports to the US account for 2% of GDP, the uncertainty will dampen business sentiment and investment. Moreover, India's ability to benefit from supply chain shifts out of China would be reduced if US tariffs ultimately remain above that of Asian peers.

Signpost bags 9-yr contract for city metro advertising

BENGALURU, DHNS: Digital out-of-home and urban infrastructure media, Signpost India, has secured a new 9-year contract with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for advertising rights across 67 Namma Metro stations. This holds a revenue potential of up to Rs 700 crore. This also comes at a time when metro advertising is gaining significant traction. The long-term partnership covers over 1,00,000 sq. ft. of premium media space, the company said on Monday. Signpost has implemented transit media solutions across cities, including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, and Hyderabad. Signpost India's expansion into the Bengaluru Metro network marks a milestone in establishing its dominance in Bengaluru's transit media landscape.

Ethereum crosses $4,900; could breach the $5k mark soon

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The second-largest cryptocurrency, Ethereum, on Monday crossed an all-time high of over $4,900, driven by multiple factors, including US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's indication of a possible interest rate cut next month. On Monday evening, the cryptocurrency was trading at over $4,615. This is the first time the cryptocurrency has touched the $4,900 mark after four years. Its previous record was $4,878 in November 2021.

Over the past 48 hours, about 200,000 ETH (Ethereum) have been withdrawn from exchanges, suggesting a potential supply squeeze in the near term, said Edul Patel, CEO of Mudrex, a crypto exchange. He added that ETH's next leg of rally could breach the $5000 mark with strong support at $4,400. On Monday evening, Bitcoin was trading at above $1,11,520, and experts said the potential rate cut discussion has lifted risk appetite.

Himanshu Maradiya, Founder and Chairman, CIFDAQ, a cryptocurrency exchange, said Bitcoin held firm at key support levels, leaving traders closely watching for signs of either a breakout or a potential pullback.

"At the macro level, market sentiment is being shaped by heightened discussion around the US Federal Reserve's upcoming September meeting," Maradiya added.

Raj Karkara, COO, ZebPay said this achievement reflects growing institutional confidence, the maturation of Layer 2 scaling solutions, and the efficiency gains delivered by the Merge, subsequent upgrades, and the upcoming Fusaka upgrade.

Flipkart hires over 2.2 lakh workers for the festive season

BENGALURU, DHNS: Walmart-owned ecommerce company Flipkart will create over 2.2 lakh seasonal job opportunities this festive season. These jobs are created across the supply chain, logistics and last-mile delivery roles and include hiring across tier-2 and 3 cities.

The ecommerce firm said that about 15% of new hires are first-time workforce entrants, and roles include pickers, packers, sorters, and delivery executives.

Flipkart's logistics network, which covers all serviceable pincodes, will see the expansion of 650 new festive-only delivery hubs in cities such as Siliguri, Kundli, Jakhar, including tier-2 and 3 cities, directly and positively impacting the seasonal job ecosystem, it said.

The ecommerce firm said it continues to partner with social sector organisations to train and onboard individuals from underrepresented communities into logistics roles. Additionally, through the Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA), Flipkart has trained thousands of candidates so far.

Veteran banker Rajiv Anand takes charge as CEO of IndusInd Bank

REUTERS: Veteran banker Rajiv Anand has taken charge as IndusInd Bank's chief executive and managing director, the beleaguered bank said in an exchange filing on Monday. Anand was previously the deputy managing director at private lender Axis Bank and has held key management positions at leading global financial institutions. IndusInd Bank took a $230 million hit in FY25 due to years of misaccounting of internal derivative trades, prompting the resignations of CEO Sumant Kathpalia and deputy Arun Khurana in April.

Rajiv Anand

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BGRR/PvtSale/2025-26 **NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD** **25/08/2025**

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-09-2025 as shown below:

Br. Jangamakote Cross: No. 295, Hosapet Village, Jangamakote Cross, Shidlaghtta (Tq), Chikballapur, Karnataka-562 102 Ph. No. 08158252222 :- 21696900000142,21696400051892,21696400041901,21696400043774,21696400029161,21696400041513,21696400043428,21696400047544,21696400031480, 21696400041752,21696400043576,21696400047676,21696400034039,21696400041885,21696400043717,21696400054490,21696400048161,21696400049300, 21696400049714,21696400049896,21696400048633,21696400049326,21696400049730,21696400049987,21696400049128,21696400049433,21696400051900, 21696400051306,21696400054516,21696400049607,21696400049797,21696400051389,21696400051751.

Br. Bangalore / Hebbal Kempapura: Elevated ground floor, 319/37/4, Dasarahalli Main Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Hebbal Kempapura, Bangalore - 560 024 :- 24926900000272,24926900000280,24926400001994,24926400001770,24926400001846,24926400002406,24926400001960, 24926400001531,24926900000066,24926900000124.

Br. Bangalore / Vidyaranyapura : Ground Floor, No. 1123, Khata No. 1066/2744/1123, 6th Block, HMT Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560097 Ph. :- 9544597221 :- 23966400001512,23966100000434,23966900000741,23966100000731,23966100000863,23966100000871, 23966100000897,23966100000905,23966400006578,23966400007105,23966100001143.

Br. Bangalore/Banaswadi: No 13, Banaswadi Main Road, Bangalore- 560 043 Ph No. 080-25420700 :- 14716100314348,14716500005496, 14716100312680,14716900001541,14716100300453,14716900005401,14716100304448,14716900001558,14716100300461,14716400038860,14716100307227, 14716900001566,14716100301238,14716400038886,14716900001335,14716900001574,14716100301246,14716400039728,14716900001343,14716100313779, 14716900004164,14716400039736,14716900003232,14716100313662,14716900004172,14716900007282,14716100303044,14716100315865,14716900006607.

Br. Bangalore/Jalahalli: 17/1, Savithri, S M Road, Jalahalli West, Bangalore- 560 015, Ph. No. 080-28372201 :- 15826400140712,15826900002297,15826400138450,15826100640458,15826900008039,15826900002248,15826100637173,15826900002628,15826100639641, 15826900008047,15826100636050,15826100641761,15826400142411,15826100639666,15826400141801,15826400133253,15826100644849,15826400139367, 15826100646315,15826900004095,15826400136371,15826100644856,15826400142403,15826400141728,15826100640722,15826400136785,15826400139870, 15826400125937,15826100646232,15826400141124,15826100625020,15826400134756,15826900009425,15826100645176,15826400141132,15826500013827, 15826400140142,15826900009425,15826900010530,15826400141165,15826400137692,15826900003105,15826400140704,15826400142791,15826100640367, 15826900009755,15826400138096,15826400138245,15826400142965,15826400133535,15826900011181,15826400138179,15826400135415,15826100641936, 15826900008690,15826400143393,15826900001281,15826900002875,15826900006470,15826100646687,15826400143419,15826400140324,15826100629592, 15826100634568,15826900008146,15826900004715,15826400140530,15826100634360,15826100638221,15826900010597,15826400134772,15826400138864, 15826100636431,15826100639658,15826800045743,15826400141405,15826100643536,15826100639260,15826100638668,15826900008054,15826900005357, 15826400135134,15826100635052,15826400140001,15826400141561,15826100642447,15826100587105,15826400134897,15826400140357,15826100642488, 15826100635904,15826100638122,15826100640193,15826400140522,15826100636944,15826100636829,15826400138393,15826900011587,15826900011058, 15826100643742,15826400138401,15826400138419,15826100645531.

Br. Bangalore/R T Nagar : No.20, 1st Main Road, 108 'B' Bus Station, Ganga Nagar, R T Nagar P O, Bangalore- 560 032, Ph no. 080-23434258 :- 14726100219272,14726400080465,14726400084103,14726500017557,14726100220478,14726400083790,14726400084111,14726900001896,14726400074153, 14726400084053,14726500017482,14726900001904.

Br. Doddaballapur: D Cross Road, Doddaballapur, Bangalore Rural- 561 203 Ph No.080-27622105 :- 16315500022573,16316400075406, 16316400075521,16316400104933,16316400110419,16316400115319,16316400080422,16316400078707,16316400110658,16316100124561,16316400110559.

Br. Dommasandra: Khata No. 13 - Gramathana, Dommasandra (Bangalore East), Bidarahalli Hobli, Virgonagar P O, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560049 Ph No. 080-29906232:- 21656400024877,21656400032672,21656400024943,21656400030940,21656400032763,21656400015693, 21656400029579,21656400032318,21656400024216,21656400031062.

Br. Bangalore / Thanisandra : GF, No.89/1, Thanisandra, K Narayanapura Road, Dr.S R K Nagar PO, Bangalore- 560 077 :- 23886400009184,23886400009499,23886400009903,23886400005612,23885600000498,23886400009622,23886400010117,23886900000576,23886900000055.

Br. Bangalore/Sadashivanagar: #88, Keerthi, 2nd Main, Palace Guttahalli P O, Bangalore-560 003 Ph No. 080 23565050 :- 21986400068464,21986400066291,21986100042824,21986300003428,21986400057274,21986400066317,21985600001074,21986300003469,21986400065202, 21986400051459,21986300003337,21986300003501,21986400064973,21986400063983,21986300003360,21986300003725,21986400068644,21986400066374, 21986300003378,21986300003766,21986400063892,21986400066077,21986300003386,21986300004095,21986400061920,21986400066747,21986300003394, 21986300004111,21986400038753,21986400057084,21986300003402,21986300004129,21986300004152.21986300004277,21986300004285.

Br. Nelamangala: Paramanna Layout, B H Road, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka- 562 123 Ph no. 080-27722251 :- 15536400129017,15536100156344,15536400120651,15536400129199,15536400136020,15536400136392,15536400130320,15536400130395,15536400131641, 15536400134504,15536400134983,15536400131476,15536400130221,15536400128928,15536400127599,15536400132482,15536400138067,15536400138315, 15536400138620,15536400138968,15536400133118.

Bangalore 25-08-2025 **Vice President & Zonal Head**

ವಾಯವ್ಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಂ:ವಾಕರಸಾಸಂ:ಕಾನಿಅ:ನಕ್ಷೆ:ಹು:473:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23–08–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

KPPP Portal ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ.ಡಿ/ಸಿ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲೂ.ಡಿ/ಎಂ.ಇ.ಎಸ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KPPP Portal ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KPPP Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾಗಿರುವಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ–4 ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.inನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು, ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಪತ್ಯೇಕ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಹಣ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ
1	Construction of New Compound wall to Vacant land on rear side of BRTS Depot & Construction of Drain and other allied works at BRTS Depot Dharwad (Short Term)	NWKRTC/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT59	**19,15,696/-**	**50,000/-**	**30.08.2025** @ 16.00 Hrs
2	Construction of seminar hall Over First Floor building of central office at Gokul road Hubballi	NWKRTC/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT44/CALL-2	**1,42,88,184/-**	**50,000/-**	**04.09.2025** @ 16.00 Hrs

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ (help desk) +91-9240214000/+91-9240214001/+91-8068948777/+91-8046010000, 0836-2332383 ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/585/2025–26 **ವಾಕರಸಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ**

Jayanth, Swayam combine to give HSES big win

BENGALURU, DHNS: P Jayanth Abhiram and Swayam Shabadi claimed 17 wickets between them across two innings to help Holy Saint English School trounce Sri Kumaran Children's Home, CBSE by an innings and 57 runs at the KM Ramprasad Shield Under-16 School (I Division) tournament here.

In the first innings, Jayanth picked up a six-for (6/17) while Swayam scalped four (4/27) to skittle SKCH for 44 in 24.3 overs.

HSES declared their innings for 159/2 in 36 overs with Brahmanya Theertha R Kuber top-scoring with 81 off 96 balls. Jayanth and Swayam claimed two and five wickets respectively to bowl out their opponents for a paltry 58 in 47 overs.

The big win gave Holy Saint English School six points while Sri Kumaran Children's Home, CBSE got a point docked.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Sri Kumaran Children's Home, CBSE: 44 all out in 24.3 overs (Sanjit Sathish 28; P Jayanth Abhiram 6-17, Swayam Shabadi 4-27) and 58 all out in 47 overs (P Jayanth Abhiram 2-17, Swayam Shabadi 5-10, Krish Rao 2-14) lt to Holy Saint English School: 159/2 decl in 36 overs (Brahmanya Theertha R Kuber 81, Amogh Hegde 33, Rohith M 34 n.o.; Sukruth B Kukke 2-50). **HSES: 6 points; Sri Kumaran: -1 point.**
The Sports School: 240/6 in 90 overs (Ruhaan Shaikh 58, Bhargav D 54, Vikram 81 n.o.; Paarth Madan 4-62, Manish V Patil 2-72) bt Vidyashilp Academy: 42 all out in 23.2 overs (Vikram 5-25, Ruhaan Shaikh 2-1, Bhargav D 2-1) and 83/5 in 31 overs (Panshul Sharma 28; Aditya G 2-25). **The Sports School: 3; Vidyashilp Academy: 1.**
Jain Heritage School: 325/8 in 90 overs (Arnav Anil 51, Aaryansinh Chavda 101, Aditya Jha 58, Shrehaan Chauhan 50 n.o.; Rohan R Gowda 2-61, Chethan C 5-90) and 81/0 in 23 overs (Arnav Anil 51 n.o., Daksh JN 25 n.o.) drew with Max Muller High School: 90 all out in 33.2 overs (Rohan R Gowda 26; Vidhat S 2-28, Vansh Pratap Singh 2-3, Satvik Dummi 3-3). **Jain Heritage: 3; Max Muller HS: 1.**
Bishop Cotton Boys School: 53 all out in 33.1 overs (Akshaj Kathuria 3-13, Hrithvik Mishra 2-8, Punith 3-7, Krishna 2-12) and 65 all out in 30.2 overs (Akshaj Kathuria 5-26, Krishna 3-17) lt to Delhi Public School, East: 128/4 decl in 27 overs (Shahan Shadab 40, Abhinav Kulkarni 34, Akshaj Kathuria 34; Viren Seervi 2-25). **DPS, East: 6; BCBS: -1.**
School of India: 158 all out in 36.3 overs (Mohmmed Raheel A 36, Shaurya Tandon 55; Rithesh P 2-16, Saad Rayyan Khan 4-49, Kushal KA 2-18) and 221 all out in 52.2 overs (Mohmmed Raheel A 59, Niranjan Ashok 25, Shaurya Tandon 46, Aniketh Kaushik Kundapur 42 n.o.; Saad Rayyan Khan 2-66, Parinith K 3-39) drew with Delhi Public School North: 150 all out in 56.2 overs (Hruthik Kumar 48, Tanuj M 26; Aaryan Nagesh 6-54, Samji Vishnu Sathwik 2-44) and 191/4 in 41 overs (Saad Rayyan Khan 26, Tanush Mishra 26, Rithesh P 62 n.o., Ansh Kumar 30; Aaryan Nagesh 2-64). **SoI: 3; DPS, North: 1.**
Ebenezer International School: 182 all out in 75.5 overs (Deep Mittra 27, Rithvik Kulasekar 72; Prajwal N Gowda 2-35, Surya S Prasad 2-21, P Yateesh 2-30, Dheeraj Kumar Yadav R 3-15) drew with St. Joseph's Indian High School: 110 all out in 55.1 overs (Vignesh 37; Srinath Seshadri 3-19, Rithvik Kulasekar 2-35, Viraaj Gaurav 3-28). **EIS: 3; SJIHS: 1.**
Delhi Public School, South: 264 all out in 83.3 overs (Syaamantak Anirudh 121, Hannan Zaki Ahmad 62; Chiranjith SP 3-45, Tupakula Sai Vikranth 2-35, Nikhil S Gowda 3-32) drew with Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya: 216/9 in 90 overs (Suvik Gill 27, Atharv S Deshpande 60, Mandar Pai 36 n.o.; Prathyush G Shetty 3-47, Aakash Suresh 4-74, Viaan Joshi 2-43). **DPS, South: 3; PVV: 1.**

TENNIS US OPEN

Scratchy Djokovic finds solutions

Sabalenka starts strong; Bonzi sends Medvedev packing

NEW YORK, AFP

Aryna Sabalenka launched the defence of her US Open crown with victory on Sunday while Novak Djokovic made a successful start to his latest bid for a record 25th Grand Slam singles title -- but a raging Daniil Medvedev exited.

World No. 1 Sabalenka, bidding to become the first woman to claim back-to-back US Open titles since Serena Williams completed a hat-trick of wins in 2014, was made to work hard en route to a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Switzerland's Rebeka Masarova.

Masarova, ranked 108th in the world, pushed Sabalenka out of her comfort zone with a gutsy performance on the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center's main Arthur Ashe Stadium showcourt.

"Happy to get this win and happy to be in the second round. I feel like I didn't start my best in the first games, but then I found my rhythm," said Sabalenka, who will face unseeded Russian Polina Kudermetova.

While Sabalenka advanced safely, Danish 14th seed Clara Tauson tumbled out to Alexandra Eala.

Eala, 20, became the first player from the Philippines to win a Grand Slam singles match with a thrilling 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (13/11) win, battling back from a 5-1 deficit in the final set.

Another player from Southeast Asia -- Indonesia's Janice Tjen -- also bagged an upset, ousting Russian 24th seed Veronika Kudermetova 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Tjen, ranked 149th in the world, will face Britain's Emma Raducanu in the second round.

With men's defending champion Jannik Sinner and rival Carlos Alcaraz not opening their campaigns until Monday and Tuesday, all eyes were on the veteran Serbian star Djokovic in Sunday's night session on Ashe.

The 38-year-old showed flashes of brilliance in a 6-1, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 win against his unseeded 19-year-old American opponent Learner Tien.

The final game of the opening day saw a chaotic victory for France's Benjamin Bonzi over Russian 13th seed Medvedev, the 2021 US Open champion.

Amid extraordinary scenes at the end of the third set, play was held up for more than six minutes as Bonzi waited to serve on match point.

It followed a tirade by Medvedev against chair umpire Greg Allensworth after the official re-awarded Bonzi a first serve when a photographer mistakenly walked onto the court.

Bonzi though recovered in the fifth to close out a 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 0-6, 6-4 win.

Fourth seed Taylor Fritz and sixth seed Ben Shelton eased into the second round.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns during his first round win against United States' Learner Tien at the US Open. REUTERS

Teen Mboko ousted

Canadian teenager Victoria Mboko was brought down to earth with a straight sets first round defeat to Barbora Krejcikova at the US Open on Monday.

Mboko, the 22nd seed who turns 19 on Tuesday, bowed out of the tournament after losing 6-3, 6-2.

The early exit comes just three weeks after Mboko celebrated her first WTA title with victory at the Canadian Open in Montreal.

Elsewhere, two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova brought the curtain down on her professional career with a 6-1, 6-0 defeat to France's Diane Parry.

The 35-year-old Czech had already announced she planned to hang up her racket after the US Open.

Results (prefix denotes seedings): Men: First round: 7-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Learner Tien (USA) 6-1, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2; 16-Jakub Mensik (Cze) bt Nicolas Jarry (Chi) 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-4; Ugo Blanchet (Fra) bt Fabian Marozsan (Hun) 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-2; 21-Tomas Machac (Cze) bt Luca Nardi (Ita) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; 4-Taylor Fritz (USA) bt Emilio Nava (USA) 7-5, 6-2, 6-3; 6-Ben Shelton (USA) bt Ignacio Buse (PER) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) bt Pablo Llamas (Esp) 7-6 (9/7), 6-4, 6-2; Jordan Thompson (Aus) bt Corentin Moutet (Fra) 6-2, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; Adrian Mannarino (Fra) bt 29-Tallon Griekspoor (Ned) 7-5, 6-4, 6-0; 20-Jiri Lehecka (Cze) bt Borna Coric (Cro) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1; Brandon Nakashima (USA) bt Jesper de Jong (NED) 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (10/7); Tomas Etcheverry (Arg) bt Camilo Ugo (Arg) 6-3, 6-2, 6-0; Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) bt 13-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 0-6, 6-4; 18-Alejandro Davidovich Fokina bt Alexander Shevchenko (KAZ) 6-1, 6-1, 6-2.
Women: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Rebeka Masarova (Sui) 7-5, 6-1; Polina Kudermetova (Rus) bt Nuria Parrizas Diaz (Esp) 2-2 retired; 31-Leylah Fernandez (Can) bt Rebecca Marino (Can) 6-2, 6-1; Lulu Sun (NZ) bt Maria Camila Osorio (Col) 6-4, 2-6, 6-0; Alexandra Eala (Phi) bt 14-Clara Tauson (Den) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (13/11); Emma Raducanu (Gbr) bt Ena Shibahara (Jpn) 6-1, 6-2; 32-McCartney Kessler (USA) bt Magda Linette (POL) 7-5, 7-5; 7-Jasmine Paolini (Ita) bt Destanee Aiava (Aus) 6-2, 7-6 (7/4); Victoria Azarenka (Blr) bt Hina Inoue (USA) 7-6 (7/0), 6-4; 16-Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt Zhang Shuai (Chn) 6-3, 6-3; 10-Emma Navarro (USA) bt Wang Yafan (Chn) 7-6 (11/9), 6-3; 4-Jessica Pegula (USA) bt Mayar Sherif (Egy) 6-0, 6-4; Barbora Krejcikova 9Cze) bt 22-Victoria Mboko 6-3, 6-2; Diane Parry (Fra) bt Petra Kvitova (Cze) 6-1, 6-0.

BCCI begins hunt for new sponsor

Secretary Saikia confirms deal with Dream 11 over

NEW DELHI, PTI

Fantasy sports company Dream11 is no longer the title sponsor of the Indian cricket team and the Board has initiated the process to find a replacement, which is unlikely to be finalised in time for next month's Asia Cup.

Dream11 won't be continuing as Indian cricket team's title sponsors, starting from the men's Asia Cup, after the government banned real money gaming under the recently-passed 'Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming' act.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia confirmed that the deal with Dream11 has ended and BCCI is putting the process in motion to get new title sponsor for various national teams.

"Our stand is very clear. With government regulations in place, the BCCI cannot continue its sponsorship relationship with Dream11 or any such other gaming company. Under the new restrictions, there is no scope and we are facing a roadblock with Dream11," Saikia told.

"So we cannot continue with them and therefore trying to find some alternatives, and that process is now ongoing. The vacant position of the sponsor is something that we are trying to fill and till now nothing has been completed. Once something happens we will let you know with a media advisory," he added.

The ban on real money gaming has affected the revenue stream of all fantasy gaming companies.

"...no person shall offer any, aid, abet, induce, indulge, engage in offering online money gaming services nor shall involve in any advertisement which directly or indirectly promotes any person to play any online money game," the act states.

The legislation also makes it clear that there could be financial penalty upto Rs one crore or a jail term of three years in case of a violation.

Dream11 won the tender for Indian national teams (Senior Men, women, Emerging (U23), U-19 men and women) in 2023 for a period of three years for Rs 358 crore (USD 44 million).

They are exiting with almost a year still left in the contract but are unlikely to be penalised for it.

"The BCCI fully understands one of our sponsorship partner's plight. It is not their fault and unlike other issues of payment default, there won't be any penalty levied on Dream11. This is a government rule and full compliance is required and in the current scenario, there business will be impacted," a top official told.

Lakshya goes down fighting

PARIS, PTI

Top Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen's campaign at the BWF World Championships ended in disappointment as he went down fighting in straight games to world No. 1 and top seed Shi Yu Qi of China in the men's singles opening round here on Monday.

The 24-year-old Sen, a bronze medallist at the 2021 edition, went down 17-21, 19-21 in 54 minutes.

Despite pushing the Chinese to long rallies and producing bursts of his attacking brilliance, the Indian faltered in key moments, unable to breach Shi's rock-solid defence and explosive finishing.

Lakshya Sen. AFP

Sen had come to Paris hoping to erase the memory of his heartbreaking fourth-place finish at the Olympics last August.

Instead, he ran into the inform Shi, who has won all nine finals that he contested since January 2024, and looked in complete command of his game.

With the win, Shi extended his head-to-head advantage over Sen to 4-1.

The match opened with both players engaging in gripping exchanges.

A 47-shot rally early on ended with Sen misjudging a line call, handing Shi a 3-2 lead. The Chinese then unleashed two sharp smashes to move 10-6 ahead.

Sen, however, capitalised on a few errors from his opponent and drew level at 11-11. But the Indian could not ride on the momentum. Shi immediately broke away to 14-11 with a series of smashes, consistently targeting Sen's backhand corner.

Mbappe brace guides Madrid

OVIEDO (SPAIN), AFP: Kylian Mbappe was again on target for Real Madrid as they overcame Real Oviedo 3-0 in La Liga on Sunday.

For Oviedo, returning to Spain's top flight after an absence of almost a quarter of a century, the arrival of the 15-time European champions was a gala occasion, and the Asturian fans made their presence heard.

Villarreal win 5-0

Elsewhere, Villarreal hammered Girona 5-0 at home as new signing Tajon Buchanan netted a hat-trick to open his La Liga account and faced their second-consecutive defeat.

Mirabai lifts gold on return

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu lived up to her top billing with a record-breaking show as she expectedly won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships here on Monday.

The Tokyo Olympics silver medallist lifted a total of 193kg (84kg+109kg) to set new Commonwealth Championship records in snatch, clean and jerk, and total, finishing atop the women's 48kg podium. Her effort was a whopping 14kg more than the previous total record in the tournament.

National Games champion Rishikanta Singh added the second gold of the day in the men's 60kg with a total effort of 271kg (120kg+151kg).

Returning to international action after a year-long hiatus due to an injury, Chanu did look rusty at times, managing only three successful lifts out of six.

"I am truly delighted to win the gold medal here because this is my first international event after the Olympics."

Mirabai Chanu wins the 48kg gold at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad. PTI

Neeru shoots gold as Indian trap shooters dominate

SHYMKENT, PTI: National Games champion Neeru Dhanda enjoyed one of her finest days in the sport en route to winning the women's trap gold medal while compatriots Aashima Ahlawat and Bhowneesh Mendiratta claimed bronze at the Asian Shooting Championship here on Monday.

Neeru shot 43 in the final to claim the top prize ahead of Qatar's Bassil Ray (37) and Aashima (29).

In the men's trap final, Bhoneesh shot 45 to grab silver with Chinese shooters Ying Qi (47) and Pengyu Chen (35) winning the gold and bronze medal, respectively. Bhoneesh was placed fourth in the qualifications, while Kynan Chenai was 15th. Lakshay was way down in 41st position.

Earlier in the day, double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker finished fourth in the women's 25m pistol competition before the Indian shooters swept the junior event at the continental tournament.

Bhaker's compatriot Esha Singh ended sixth in the eight-woman final with 18 points. Bhaker shot 25, four less than Vietnam's bronze medallist Thu Vinh Trinh (29).

Neeru, Aashima and Preeti Rajak also won the team gold in women's trap with 319 ahead of China and Kuwait. Neeru and Aashima entered the six-women final in fifth and sixth position respectively after being involved in a shoot-off.

Neeru Dhanda. X

Neeru, who reached her first-ever ISSF World Cup final and finished a remarkable fourth at the Shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy, in July, is a cousin of Indian trap shooter Lakshay Sheoran and picked up the sport after watching him in action.

Juniors fire again

India's shooters, however, thoroughly dominated the 25m pistol women junior final, with Payal Khatri claiming the gold with a total of 36, Naamya Kapoor (30) winning silver and Tejaswani (27) bagging bronze.

They also won the team silver after aggregating 1700, finishing behind Korea and ahead of host nation Kazakhstan. Naamya and Tejaswini were one and two in the qualifications, while Payal entered the junior final in sixth place.

Earlier in the day, Chinese shooters Yueyue Zhang and Jiaruixuan Xiao won the senior women's gold and silver.

Praggu stays joint-second after fifth straight draw

ST. LOUIS (USA), PTI: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa settled for his fifth consecutive draw, splitting points with Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda in the sixth round of the Sinquefield Cup, part of the Grand Chess Tour.

With this result, Praggnanandhaa moved to 3.5 points from six games, maintaining a joint second position with American Levon Aronian. Meanwhile, American GM Fabiano Caruana held on to his lead with 4 points, staying half a point ahead of the field.

World champion D Gukesh is still tied for the fourth spot on 3 points along with Wesley So and Samuel Sevia, and the French duo of Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.

On another all-drawn day, Caruana shared the point with Sevian, and Nodirbek Abdusattorov got the same result against Vachier-Lagrave. Aronian also drew with Wesley, making it the second day in a row when all the games were drawn.

Results (Round 6): R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 3.5) drew with Duda Jan-Krzysztof (Pol, 2.5); D Gukesh (Ind, 3) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 3); Samuel Sevian (Usa, 3) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 4); Levon Aronian (Usa, 3.5) drew with Wesley So (Usa, 3); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5) drew with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3).

IN BRIEF

BCCI grants ex gratia to ICA widows

▸ The Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) will introduce a one-time benefit (OTB) of Rs one lakh for the spouses of deceased members after the BCCI approved its disbursal, reports DHNS.

Around 50 beneficiaries are expected to benefit initially.

Karnataka lose to Bihar

▸ Karnataka girls' football team lost 0-2 to Bihar in their latest Group D encounter at the Sub Junior Girls' National Football Championship, reports DHNS.

◆ ON TV ◆

TENNIS
US Open: First round **(8:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

BADMINTON
World C'ships: Round of 64 **(12:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**.

CRICKET
Maharaja Trophy: Qualifier 1 **(3:15 pm)**, Eliminator **(7:15 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru-560 001
HCC No.08/2025 Date: 23.08.2025

SHORT-TERM NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited by the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru for procurement of **(1)** Smart Screen **(2)** OPS **(3)** PTZ Camera **(4)** Gooseneck MIC **(5)** Amplifier **(6)** DSP (Audio and Video) and **(7)** Speakers to Karnataka Judicial Academy through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Centre for e-Governance, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru. The last date to upload the tender is fixed as **02.09.2025 at 4.00 PM.** For more details visit: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTender/live** website.

Sd/-
(N.G. Dinesh)
Registrar (Computers) and Tender Inviting Authority
High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru

DIPR/DD-C.P/2474/KSMCA/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, BENGALURU
Estate Office, GKVK

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. EO/TN/9/2025-26, DATED: 21.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW2 & KW4 from the registered KPWD/PWD/ Contractors for the works Sl. No.1 to 5. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.

The Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The pre-bid meeting for **Sl. No.1** will be held on **28.08.2025** at **10.30** am in the Tender Committee Room of Estate Office. Last date and time for uploading is **30.08.2025** upto **4.00** pm. The **Technical Bid** will be opened on **01.09.2025** at **10.30** am. The **Financial Bid** will be opened on **04.09.2025** at **10.30** am. For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **8046010000/ 8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No.080-23332765.

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

DIPR/CP/2475/CCL/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Haveri.
Email: eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel No. 08375-232454

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

This office letter No.21/EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-2/Tender/2025-26/2856 Dated: 22-08-2025

On 22-08-2025 through Karnataka Publi Procurement Portal Tender Notification has been issued for the following **work Indent No. 17100, 17101, 17102, 17103, 16117/Call-3, 16591, 17580/ Call-2(SC), 16577/Call-2, 14150(SC), 18177(IIA), 18242, 18248 (IIA), 18264, & 18279 (IIA)** Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on **Dated: 22-08-2025 (upto 4:00 PM).** For further additional information, any changes & queries visit http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Haveri.

dipr/hvr/dipo/338/25-26

इसरो ISRO
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru - 560 017 (Phone: 080 25084184, 4156)
BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Civil Works for Part-A: Providing Safety Platform for Unused Shaker Pits in DTF Building at ISITE Campus, URSC Marathahalli, Bengaluru and Part-B: Civil Works for Gym at DOS/ISRO Housing Colony, Indira Nagar Old land, Bengaluru.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/13/2025-26, Dt. 22.08.2025
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 23.86 Lakhs
4	Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
5	Period of completion	Two Months
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 47,720/- valid for 180 days
7	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 09.30 hrs on 25.08.2025 to 23.59 hrs on 06.09.2025
8	Bid clarification	From 10.30 hrs on 25.08.2025 to 17.00 hrs on 08.09.2025
9	Last date of reply to Bid Clarification	Up to 17.00 hrs on 09.09.2025
10	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs on 11.09.2025
11	Due date and time of opening of tenders	14.30 hrs Onwards on 11.09.2025

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-, Group Director (C&MG)

Dishant astride Kannjo.

Dishant wears show jumping gold

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dishant, astride Kannjo, won the show jumping (110 cm class, SJ5) gold in the sixth edition of the Karnataka State Equestrian Competition held at the EIRS here on Monday.

Results: Show Jumping 110cm Class: SJ5: Dishant (Kannjo, EIRS) 1; Basavaraju S (Dakar, EIRS) 2; Hiba (Ascot, FSS) 3.
Show Jumping 100cm Class: SJ4: Nikshita Pandey (Elliot, EIRS) 1; Basavaraju S (Caraida, EIRS) 2; Rishab (Hero, EIRS) 3.
Show Jumping 80cm Class: SJ3: G Shushrutha (Felotti, EIRS) 1; Diego (Theo, EIRS) 2; Zoya Shanavaz (Prematheus, EIRS) 3.
Show Jumping 60cm Class: SJ2: Bharath (Hercules, Zippy) 1; Aneka (Pat, EIRS) 2; Dhiya (Maharaja, Zippy) 3.
Pre-Novice Dressage Test Class: D5: Bhargav Babu (Vadim, EIRS) 1; Kiara Rupesh (Rio, EIRS) 2; Nikshita Pandey (Elliot, EIRS) 3.
Preliminary Dressage Test Class: D4: G Shushrutha (Christy, EIRS) 1; Bhargav Babu (Vadim, EIRS) 2; Eshaan Sundaram (Azlan, EIRS) 3.
Introductory Dressage Test Class: D3: Dhanush Gowda (Spirit, EIRS) 1; Tanush (Bonape, EIRS) 2; Trisha (Power, Zippy) 3.
Show Jumping 120cm Class: SJ 6: Shubh Chowdhari (Freezing Rain, FSS).

Hitasha Sisodia

Hitasha settles for silver

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Hitasha Sisodia settled for a second place in the Game Xtreme 2nd South Zone Tenpin Bowling tournament held at Game Xtreme Bowling Center in Hyderabad.

In the women's division final, played based on the cumulative pinfall of two games, National champion and the top seed Sumathi Nallabantu (298) defeated Hitasha (295) and second seed Sabeena Athica (280).

Hitasha, who had a chance to tie, managed to drop only seven pins.

In the men's division, Karnataka's Kishan R went down in the semifinals to finish fourth in the competition.

Result: Final standings: Women: Sumathi Nallabantu (298) 1; Hitasha Sisodia (295) 2; Sabeena Athica (280) 3.

ATHLETICS

Goal beyond numbers

With a new national record in 400m, Vishal eyes bigger glory in future

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Vishal TK broke the 400m national record at the National Inter-State Athletics Championships in Chennai. X

"Why did you slow down? You could have clocked sub-45!" An agitated close friend of Vishal TK remarked after his 400m national record show at the just-concluded National Inter-State Athletics Championships in Chennai.

The animated question was understandable as the new NR (45.12 seconds) he set wasn't too far off that elusive mark, which has been long-awaited by the patient Indian track and field fans. After all, it will be another important step towards the big stage, where elites have set a high standard with Quincy Hall's mark of 43.40 at the Paris Olympics topping the list at the Summer Games.

The world record, for that matter, is set at 43.03 seconds by South African Wayde van Niekerk. For the quartermiler from Jolarpet, however, these are mere numbers that don't mean much to him. Whether sub-45 timing or national record, he has clarity on where his priority lies.

"I don't like thinking about timings and numbers," Vishal told *DH*. "I am an athlete who is still learning. My only objective was to execute what my coach (Jason Dawson) taught me during training. If you spoke to me before the race or before the start of the season, I wasn't thinking of national record or sub-45 timing."

That kind of mature mentality is not common among young Indian athletes, but there are some anomalies. The biggest one, of course, is Neeraj Chopra. Among all the speculations and a prolonged wait for his first 90m throw, the Tokyo Olympic Champion admittedly kept himself away from the noise.

The javelin star's focus was always on getting his technique right and following what was taught in the training by his coach. That's why one may have often seen him celebrate before his throws landed, as he was pleased with his execution. For Vishal, it's no different, as he likes to keep his head down what the coach has to teach him.

"That's what I like about him, he listens and is eager to learn," said coach Dawson while speaking to the media in Chennai. "I have been training him for a year, and he is exactly what I demand of my athletes, honesty and dedication."

Dawson, a Jamaican who has been heading AFI's 400m relays programme at the national camp in Thiruvananthapuram, also shared how his former coach Sreenivasan Ramaiah played a pivotal role in shaping the athlete.

"When he was flying with me to Jamaica for training, I overheard his former coach telling him, 'Listen to the coach and follow what he tells you.' I said thanks to him for not interfering in my programme."

Vishal explains why he had such a level-headed approach. Turns out, competing in various running events during the formative years of his career made him realise that he can't have a one-size-fits-all approach.

"I started running with 100m and 200m when I was in sixth standard, and even tried running in 400m and 800m. I understood that the approach and technique changes, and your coaches are the ones who will teach you the nuances. And for the elite-level, you need their guidance more," said Vishal.

Eyes on Asiad, CWG

Speaking of the elite level, that's where the real challenge lies for India's new 400m king. His new personal best would have been enough to win him a gold medal at the Asian Athletics Championships last year, as the top spot was sealed at 45.33.

However, CWG onwards sub-45-timings come into play with African and Jamaican runners joining the fray. Vishal, who quit studies to focus on running after his senior secondary education, already has his sights set on the big prize.

India all set for Jamil era

New coach announces squad for the CAFA Nations Cup

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

AIFF vice-president and KSFA president NA Haris (left), India head coach Khalid Jamil (centre) and AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Newly-appointed head coach Khalid Jamil brushed aside any concerns over missing out on players from Mohun Bagan while announcing India's 23-member squad for the CAFA Nations Cup, starting August 29 in Tajikistan.

Economical with his words, Jamil remained in character while offering he was happy to work with the "available" resources at his disposal.

"Whatever resources I have or available, we have to deal with them. The attitude of the seniors has been very good. I have full support from everybody and never felt any difficulty," Jamil said while addressing the media here on Monday.

Another notable name that was missing from the squad was talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri but Jamil cleared the air and left the door ajar for the veteran's return in the future.

After being dropped under Manolo Marquez, Bengaluru FC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu returned to the fold having gained Jamil's trust. Anwar Ali, Naorem Mahesh Singh, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam and Jithin MS, who joined the camp after club duties, have all been picked.

Impending issues

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey, who was also in attendance at the press conference, said that players and staff's livelihoods are at stake and the governing body is in talks with ISL stakeholders after getting a go-ahead from the Supreme Court to have discussions over the Masters Right Agreement (MRA).

The AIFF was pushed to move India's AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifier against Singapore after the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru was stripped of its hosting rights after reportedly failing to obtain Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) clearance.

AIFF Vice-president and Karnataka State Football Association president NA Haris said that it was disappointing and considered it as an opportunity lost. He also announced plans to build a new stadium.

"It is a stadium for all sports. It is an athletic area. We are very sad that the match is going somewhere else. But it was not in our hands. And soon, KSFA will have a very good stadium coming up in Bangalore," said Haris.

India squad: Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Hrithik Tiwari
Defenders: Rahul Bheke, Naorem Roshan Singh, Anwar Ali, Sandesh Jhingan, Chinglensana Singh, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Muhammed Uvais
Midfielders: Nikhil Prabhu, Suresh Singh Wangjam, Danish Farooq Bhat, Jeakson Singh, Boris Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan, Udanta Singh, Naorem Mahesh Singh
Forwards: Irfan Yadwad, Manvir Singh, Jithin MS, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Vikram Partap Singh

No headway

The AIFF and FSDL continued to spin their wheels in their most recent meeting to resolve the issues over the future of ISL.

"Both parties approached the discussions in a constructive and positive spirit and expressed confidence in arriving at a mutually agreed proposal that will ensure the continued development and progress of football in India," the AIFF said in the statement.

Aditi ends T-36 in Women's Open

MISSISSAUGA (CANADA), PTI: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok **(in pic)** finished tied 36th after carding an even-par 71 for the third time in four days at the Women's Open here. She totalled two-under for the week.

Canadian Brooke Henderson won her second CPKC Women's Open title beating playing partner Minjee Lee by a stroke for her first victory in more than two and a half years.

Henderson closed with a four-under 68 at Mississaugua Golf and Country Club to finish at 15-under 269. Lee, the Australian player ranked fourth in the world, had a 68.

Talwar cards 6-under

Indian golfer Saptak Talwar carded a final round of 1-under 70 to end at tied-16th place at the Dutch Futures in Spijk (Netherlands). Talwar had all four rounds under par on Sunday, indicating his growing comfort on the Hotel Planner Tour.

Talwar shot 70-69-69-70 for a total of 6-under.

Pranavi 21st at Hills

A double bogey late in the final round put paid to Indian golfer Pranavi Urs' hopes for a top-15 finish as she ended at tied 21st at the Hills Open in Gothenburg (Sweden).

Pranavi, who is slowly making a comeback after an injury, shot 2-under 69 and totalled 4-over for the week at the Hills Golf & Sports Club on Sunday.

Hitaashee Bakshi (71) finished tied-41st with a total of 7-over while Sneha Singh slipped in the final round with a 76 and ended tied-47th. The other four Indian golfers, Tvesa Malik, Amandeep Drall, Avani Prashanth and Vani Kapoor missed the cut.

Inaugural Kolar Open tees off at Zion Hills

BENGALURU, DHNS: After hosting their first-ever women's professional event a few weeks ago, the Zion Hills Golf County is all set to flag-off the inaugural Kolar Open for men beginning Monday in Bangarapet.

The four-day Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) will see some of the top golfers including Angad Cheema, Udayan Mane, Om Prakash Chouhan and Manu Gandas among others in fray.

The course, which had only nine holes for several years, recently completed the construction of the back nine which will be unveiled for the first time, said Amandeep Johl, CEO of PGTI, in a press release.

Team Jamal Hossain and Varun Parikh won the two Pro-Am events played on August 24.

Dakshina Kannada grab overall championship trophy

BENGALURU, DHNS

With dominating performances across age categories in both the men's and women's sections, Dakshina Kannada were crowned the overall champions of the Karnataka State Inter-District Junior & U-23 Athletic meet that concluded on Monday in Udupi.

Sprinter Prasanna Kumar of Dharwad created a new meet record by clocking 21.32 seconds en route to gold in the men's U-23 200m race. He also took home the best athlete award while long jumper Sinchana MS of Dakshina Kannada was adjudged the best female athlete in the U-23 category.

Bengaluru's Suchithra S won the best athlete award in the under-18 category.

Results (only winners): Men: Under-23: 200m: Prasanna Kumar (D'wad) NMR: 21.32s. **400m Hurdles:** Rahul Nayak N (Mys) 53.80s. **5000m:** Onkar (B'luru) NMR: 14:23.64. **3000m Steeplechase:** Ganapati (UK) NMR: 9:25.93. **Shot Put:** Ganesh Nagappa (DK) 14.84m.
U-20: 200m: Prateek D (B'luru) 21.71s. **400m Hurdles:** Bhushan Sunil Patil (B'gavi) 54.78s. **5000m:** Bhushan Gurav (B'gavi) 15:29.59. **Shot Put:** Akash Kundar (DK) 14.65m. **3000m Steeplechase:** Ranganna Naykar (DK) 9:39.34. **5000m Race Walk:** Sidrayappa Punji (B'gavi) 26:03.98.
U-18: 200m: NMR: Chiranth (Mys) 21.38s. **600m:** Guru (DK) 4316 pts. **5000m:** Sidayappa Pungi (B'gavi) NMR: 26:03.98. **Long Jump:** Manvith N (C'nagar) 7.03m. **Shot Put:** Anurag (Udupi) 17.15m.
U-16: 60m: Sanjay HS (Sh'gga) 7.15s. **Javelin Throw:** Krishna Prakasha (DK) 54.25m.
Women: Under-23: 200m: Shreeya Rajesh (B'luru) NMR: 24.75s. **5000m:** Pranamya N (DK) 19:12.81. **Triple Jump:** Deesha (Mys) 12.32m. **High Jump:** Nikhita Purushottam (UK) 1.54m. **Pole Vault:** Bhavitha (DK) 2.80m. **Heptathlon:** Nithya Shree K (B'luru) 3048 pts.
U-20: 200m: Vaibhavi Balu B (B'gavi) 25.46s. 5000m: Pranathi (B'luru rural) 18:44.16. **Triple Jump:** Varshitha C (B'luru) 12.44m. **High Jump:** Thishnavi P Kotian (Udupi) 1.45m. **Heptathlon:** Bhuvana Sariah P (B'luru) 3517 pts.
U-18: 200m: Suchithra S (B'luru) 25.35s. **Shot Put:** Shrimayi Kulkarni (B'luru) 10.37m. **Javelin Throw:** Bhavya CJ (B'gavi) 37.61m. **3000m Race Walk:** Priyanka KM (Mys) 18:40.11.
U-16: 60m: Neelamma MK (Kodagu) 8.00s. **Long Jump:** Varsha MA (Mys) 4.01m.

Best athletes: Men: U-23: Prasanna Kumar (Dharwad); **U-20:** Nithin Gowda M (Bengaluru); **U-18:** Chiranth (Mysore); **U-16:** Sharath KJ (Shivamogga); **U-14:** Adarsh (Mysore).
Women: U-23: Sinchana MS (Dakshina Kannada); **U-20:** Sthuthi P Shetty (Udupi); **U-18:** Suchithra S (Bengaluru); **U-16:** Shamath Mika (Bengaluru); **U-14:** Adwika KP (Dakshina Kannada).
Team c'ship: U-23: Bengaluru; **U-20, 18, 16, 14:** Dakshina Kannada.
Overall team championship: Winner: Dakshina Kannada; **Runner-up:** Bengaluru.

City's Yohaan picked for SGFI

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bishop Cotton Boys' School's Yohaan Philip Jose has been selected for the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) tournament and will represent the ISC Board team in the following competition.

Yohaan Philip Jose

The 17-year-old forward was a part the Karnataka team that finished runners-up in the CISCE Nationals in Noida last week.

In the final, Karnataka went down to Kerala in a tiebreaker after the scores ended 1-1 in regulation time but Yohaan's performance in the tournament earned him a place in ISC Board.

Shrijith, Manohar fire for Tigers

MYSURU, DHNS

Abhinav Manohar

Riding on the back of exceptional half-centuries from KL Shrijith (66 not out off 40 balls) and Abhinav Manohar (63 n.o. off 35), the Hubli Tigers posted 195/3 to secure a 105-run victory over the Shivamogga Lions in their final league match of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20.

Having already qualified for the playoffs, the win ensures the Tigers a top-two finish and a place in Tuesday's Qualifier against either the Mangaluru Dragons or Gulbarga Mystics.

The Lions chase stumbled early, falling to 35/4 by the end of the powerplay. Dhruv Prabhakar (29 off 25) had waged a lone battle to emerge as the top scorer until he was castled by Yashraj Punja in the 15th over.

KC Cariappa (2/9) and Shreesha Achar (2/20) also registered two-wicket hauls. Shreesha Achar, who had accounted for Rohit Kumar, dismissed Hardik Raj in the ninth over.

With a dearth of partnerships and only three batters crossing double digits, the Lions were eventually bundled out for 90 in 15.5 overs.

Dragons beat Mystics

Complimenting Thippa Reddy (45) and S Shivaji's (46 not out) effort with the bat, Sachin Shinde got into the act with the ball to power Mangalore Dragons to a convincing 39-run win over Gulbarga Mystics in the second contest of the day.

Brief scores: Hubli Tigers: 195/3 in 20 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 33, KL Shrijith 66, Abhinav Manohar 63 n.o.; Maribasava Gowda 2-31) bt Shivamogga Lions: 90 all out in 15.5 overs (Dhruv Prabhakar 29; Shreesha Achar 2-20, KC Cariappa 2-9, Yashraj Punja 3-18). **Result:** Hubli Tigers won by 105 runs.
Mangalore Dragons: 180/6 in 20 overs (Thippa Reddy 45, Aadarsh Prajwal 27 n.o., S Shivaji 46 n.o.; Praveen Dubey 2-33, Prithviraj Shekhawat 2-21) bt Gulbarga Mystics: 141/9 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 29; Sachin Shinde 4-14). **Result:** Mangalore Dragons won by 39 runs.

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